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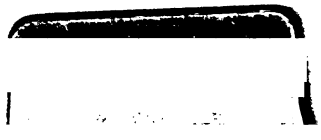

THE

MONTHLY

GAZETTE OF HEALTH;

OR,

MEDICAL, DIETETIC,

AND

General Philosophical Journal.

BY

RICHARD REECE, M. D.

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PREFACE TO THE NINTH VOLUME.

On the conclusion of no Volume of this Work, have the Editors been at a greater loss for words to express their gratitude to their Subscribers, than on the present occasion. The demand for the work, from its commencement, has annually increased; and, at this time, the Editors have the satisfaction of knowing that its circulation is more extensive and general than any other monthly or quarterly medical publication; and what is still more gratifying to their feelings, it is regularly taken in, and much recommended, by men of scientific attainments, especially of the class of Surgeon-Apothecaries, who study their profession as a science—who despise the mercenary conduct of regular and irregular quacks, or ignorant pretenders—and to whom the public is greatly indebted for all the valuable discoveries that have been made in medicine within the last century. Such marks of distinction, from a quarter competent to judge of the value of their labours, cannot but prove most highly gratifying to the Editors. They will, for the present, content themselves by simply thanking their numerous subscribers, medical and non-medical, leaving them to judge of their gratitude from the contents of their future Numbers. For the purpose of rendering the work more worthy of so respectable a patronage, and of doing justice to their patients, the Editors have resigned the superintendence of the Medical Hall, in Piccadilly, to their sons, whom, by a general medical education, at Edinburgh and London, they have qualified for the undertaking. They will, however, take care that the articles are all of the best quality; that the chemical preparations shall, generally speaking, be superior, and no article inferior to those of Apothecaries' Hall; and that all shall be sold, both to the public and the profession, at a much more reasonable rate. The high character the Medical Hall has maintained, for twenty-five years, for genuine drugs, and accuracy in compounding medicines, the Editors flatter themselves they have, by their new arrangements, secured for it at least for many years to come.

In conducting the next Series, the Editors intend to arrange their intelligence, &c. under their respective heads, or departments of medicine; viz. *Physic, Surgery, Midwifery, Chemistry, Quackery,* and *Miscellaneous Intelligence.* Under the head of *Physic,* they will notice all discoveries regarding the causes, treatment, &c. of diseases; under the head of *Surgery,* surgical operations, morbid appearances, local treatment of diseased structure, or inflammation, anatomical and physiological intelligence; under *Midwifery,* discoveries or suggestions immediately connected with parturition; under *Chemistry,* all chemical and pharmaceutical intelligence; under *Quackery,* the traffic of nostrum-mongers, with analyses of their infallible remedies—the works of practitioners, whose object is to advertise themselves—and the impudent pretensions of irregular quacks, or certain legitimate physicians, who cover their ignorance of medicine by means of a dead language, or a paltry diploma; a set of contemptible pretenders, who, for the sake of lucre, tamper with the lives of their unfortunate dupes;—and, under the head of *Miscellaneous Intelligence,* such information as is likely to prove useful in preserving health, and in promoting domestic economy and happiness.

The Editors beg to state that they have just reprinted a heavy edition (the seventh) of all the back Numbers; and this being done for the accommodation of their new subscribers, they have ordered complete sets to be sold to them at prime cost, at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

The Editors hope their medical subscribers, and other philosophical friends, will continue to favour them with communications.

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GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 98.] To FEBRUARY 1, 1824. [Vol. IX.

DIFFERENT CLASSES OF PHYSICIANS, (continued from folio 735.)—The Medico-chirurgical or Chiro-medical class of Physicians are so denominated, because they received their professional education chiefly in the schools of surgery and pharmacy. Some late writers have objected to the term, because medicine is a science or department of philosophy which comprehends "physic, surgery, pharmacy, &c. &c." and consequently the distinction of chiro-medical or medico-chirurgical, is an absurdity, for unless the practitioner be acquainted with *all* the branches of medicine, he cannot, with propriety, be termed a M. D., which signifies the person to be learned in medicine.

The ancient physicians who studied and practised medicine, for the benefit of their fellow creatures afflicted with disease, divided medicine into three departments, viz. surgery, pharmacy, and diet; but the modern *legitimates*, with the true spirit of trade, or that selfish spirit which pervades all catholic institutions, divide it into *physic*, *surgery* and *pharmacy*, each of which, according to college law, is to be conducted by different persons. According to the politic laws of the college, the office of the physician is to prescribe remedies for the constitution; that of the surgeon, to perform operations, reduce fractures and dislocations, and to apply *topical* remedies; and that of the apothecary, to compound the prescriptions of physicians; so that a patient afflicted with a *constitutional* ulcer or organic disease, instead of paying one practitioner, as the ancients did, has to remunerate three!!! Of late years, surgeons considering operations in cases of constitutional organic diseases of joints or ulcerations, disgraceful to their art, have applied their minds to the investigation of constitutional maladies and the properties of remedies, and have established a most important department, termed constitutional or medical surgery; and this is very properly considered by the public as the province of the surgeon, although claimed by a set who modestly term themselves *legitimate* physicians!! The legislature has also confirmed the right of the surgeon to practise constitutional or medical surgery; and the College of Surgeons, under the authority of their charter, grant diplomas to those whom they find qualified to exercise the art and *science* of surgery. A member of the College of Surgeons having a legal right to exercise the *science* of surgery, which, we presume, is constitutional surgery, for manual surgery is not a science; the College of Physicians would do right to draw a line of demarcation between *legitimate* medicine or physic (the province of the physician), and constitutional surgery (the province of the surgeon), a task, we suspect, they will not venture to attempt, lest they should provoke a discussion which would prove fatal to the charter they have shamefully abused, by turning it to their own benefit. *External* inflammation is allowed to be surgery,

but *internal* inflammation is claimed by the physician!! Now are not internal and external inflammation governed by the same laws, and do not both require the same constitutional treatment? Organic disease, when seated internally, is claimed by the physician; but when the same disease is external, it is deemed surgical!! Now if they are to be cured by constitutional treatment, the internal remedies applicable to one, is also to the other. Organic diseases are not only considered surgical, by modern surgeons, but also the affections of other parts from sympathy. Hence indigestion, attendant on organic disease of the stomach, uterus, liver, rectum, bladder, &c. &c. is the province of the surgeon. Indeed if internal, as well as external inflammation, organic diseases, and their attendant sympathetic affections, belong to the surgeon, the practice of the physician will be limited to the diseases of the imaginations, and modern medicine will become like ancient medicine, chiefly chirurgical, and is there a practitioner in this country acquainted with the different branches of medicine, the practice of exhibiting draughts and the *medical* knowledge of legitimate physicians, who will say, that such a change would not be for the benefit of mankind? Let us, by way of illustration, take a case of inflammation of an internal part: would the chance of recovery of the patient be greater under a surgeon or under a legitimate physician? The surgeon assuredly would regard it as a case of inflammation only, and, unbiassed by any particular theory, would unload the blood vessels, empty the intestines, excite derivative irritation, and promote the secretion of the skin, and the remedies he would proportion to the degree of inflammation, and the importance of the part affected in the animal economy. Would the legitimate physician proceed so steadily, or is not the chance ninety to one that he would be influenced by some hepatic, or other fanciful system, and administer simple remedies, till the disease had advanced to an incurable stage? In fact, "the theory and principles of physic and surgery are, as Mr. Pearson observes, indivisible, since they truly constitute *one* and the *same* science," and if physic and surgery had continued united as it was in the days of Hippocrates, we should have never heard of those ridiculous partial theories of the liver, of the brain, stomach, &c. &c. which have been broached within the last 20 years, and to which many thousand lives have been sacrificed, but we should have had a rational fundamental system established, that might be safely adopted by all practitioners, that would have encouraged invalids to apply with confidence to the profession, instead of resorting to the patent medicine shops for pretended specific remedies. In the present state of *legitimate* medicine, as the *regular* quacks term it, physic is really more to be dreaded than disease itself, and the patient, if he do not apply to a surgeon-apothecary, or a physician acquainted with every department of medicine, had better "throw physic to the dogs," and trust to dame nature. The public have been so enlightened on the subject of medicine, by the works of modern popular writers, that sensible invalids already apply to surgeons for assistance, even in medical cases, and the time is not far distant when legitimate medicine will appear in its true light, and when those members who have attempted to monopolize the practice by depreciating others, will meet with their merited odium. The result will prove the truth of the remark we made thirty years since, that the refor-

mation in the medical profession, was only to be effected by diffusing a knowledge of medicine, so as to enable the public to distinguish the man of practical knowledge from those wild theorists and pretenders, whose only object in practice is like that of the advertising quack, the loaves and fishes, and to obtain which, they will even tamper with the lives of their most intimate friends!!

The medico-chirurgical practitioner, after serving an apprenticeship to a surgeon and apothecary, attends the practice of the Hospitals and Lectures on the different branches of Medicine, either in London or Edinburgh, to complete his education, and qualify him to exercise the important office of a general practitioner. The knowledge he thus obtains, he has afterwards to amalgamate by experience and observation, and this generally requires six or eight years to effect, so as to enable him to bring the combined knowledge to bear on the question of practice. However well acquainted he may be with all the departments of medicine, it is by experience and observation only that he can obtain that nicety of practice which can enable him to treat diseases under every circumstance or modification with success—a knowledge which is not to be taught by Lecturers or acquired by reading; and hence no person should be allowed to exercise the office of a physician, till his judgment has been sobered by experience. The Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, although not schools of medicine, and although they undergo no examination in any of the branches of medicine, to entitle them to a medical diploma, boldly enter on the office of a physician, and even presume to take precedence of physicians of the Scotch or Foreign universities of long experience, and to style themselves *regular* physicians!!!

In our next number we shall give a sketch of the classical and professional education of the medico-chirurgical physician, and contrast it with that of the other classes of physicians, so as to enable our readers to form their own opinion as to the degree of confidence to which each is entitled.

We are glad to find that the associated surgeon-apothecaries and properly educated apothecaries of this country have, at length, had the courage to take the rank in the profession to which their education and talents entitle them, by publishing a volume of their Transactions, which, for a spirit of manly independence, scientific knowledge, practical reasoning, and interesting cases, is very superior to the transactions of other societies, either chartered or otherwise, that have appeared; and happy shall we be to find the same manly spirit of independence and liberality diffused through the medical societies of this country, in opposition to the influence of those irregular quacks, which some surgeons and surgeon-apothecaries have so meanly countenanced. In one society, an irregular quack had the influence to prevail on a full meeting to exclude our work from the number of periodical works they took in, because we had dared to condemn his practice, and this he considered equal to a refutation of our opinions!!! The professed object of that society is *free* discussion of medical subjects!!!

VIS MEDICATRIX NATURÆ, &c.—To the Editors of the Gazette of Health. Sirs, The last letter addressed to you by Dr. Edwards, from Paris, has called again my attention to the nearly forgotten discussions of the old schools of medicine on a *vis medicatrix naturæ*;

but after having made up my mind from the not yet obliterated recollections about what has been said *pro et contra* on the subject of that force, it seems to me, that its real nature has not been well understood, and at any chance, that it has certainly been misapplied by Dr. Edwards, in his manner of explaining the first action of opium. The old partisans of a *vis medicatrix naturæ* would not have, perhaps, attributed to that force even the nausea and strong propensity to vomiting which is soon excited by a great many poisonous substances when taken in too great a dose, though not highly distinguished for their direct emetic power, or by corrupted meals incautiously swallowed, or the same effects produced even by the Peruvian bark, when improperly administered in certain kinds of erysipelas, notwithstanding Dr. G. Fordyce's advice, or by bark and opium, though very useful in *intermittent perniciosa cholerica* of warm marshy countries, if they are given before unloading the liver, &c. nay, even by water in inflammation of the stomach, when taken at once in too great quantities, or when taken in small quantity, but either too cold or too warm, &c.; though they would have added, perhaps, that the unpleasing sensation which those substances are able to excite in the nerves of sensation of the stomach might have excited a sympathetical reaction in the fibres of its muscular tunic, and by way of association in the surrounding auxiliary muscles of vomiting by the way of their nerves of movement, if they should have been acquainted with the analogous cases fully demonstrated by Mr. Mayo, (see his Anatomical and Physiological Commentaries,) on some nerves and moveable fibres of the eye, though no pinching by the forceps of nerves supplying the stomach has been able till yet to produce movements of any kind in that organ of recently killed animals analogous to those which are produced all along the œsophagus, by pinching the eighth pair of nerves, or to those which are produced even in living animals on many muscles of the face, by pinching the *portio dura* of the seventh pair, which controls their movements, and if they should have known that individuals have been met with, able to command at will the expelling action of their stomachs upon large contents, just as the ruminant brutes do, or just as some may command the extension and retraction of the moveable fibres of the iris; much less, however, I believe, that they would ever have turned their mind to the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, to explain the first general stimulating action of a substance which is so agreeable to a dreary Turk, as a glass of generous wine, or a tumbler of aromatized negus to the stomach of a fatigued Christian. I do not pretend at all to say, in the actual infancy of our physiology, what may ever be the real way and manner of acting, either of stimulating or of contra-stimulating forces, how the former may so easily propagate an increased movement all along the channels, either of nerves and sanguiferous circulation, or of sanguiferous circulation and nerves, and how the last ones may soon give a contrary result all along the same systems; but no authority, deprived of facts and reasoning, shall ever induce me to regard the increased vital powers as an extraordinary exertion of nature to get rid of any stimulating substance which is not always a poison, but may be, perchance, a friendly material, able even to be assimilated, and to afford matter of nutrition. Many movements, besides some habitual and instinctive ones, easily reducible to will, are certainly excited by mor-

bid causes or morbid conditions in the humin body, which sometimes, though not always are able to counteract, or at least to afford a salutary compensation to their mischiefs, and cases might be quoted fit to prove it more from the Surgical Pathology than from the medical, so properly called. But all in admiring and thanking the provident dispositions which the Creator intended in his beneficent wisdom to afford us as many means of conservation independent of our own will, I would not consider any modification of vital powers under this point of view.

In fact, why is not any exertion developed by a *vis medicatrix naturæ* against bold doses of morphia, of foxglove, extracts of belladonna, of henbane, of hemlock, and of strong solutions of mineral acids? and they sometimes do remain rather long before beginning to develop their general depressing action on any kind of vital powers. It is true that the strong solutions of sulphuric acid, particularly when taken at empty stomach, might show, perchance, an apparent initial exertion of nature by accelerating occasionally for some minutes the pulse, and producing even spasmodic movements of the alimentary canal, accompanied sometimes by griping pains. But without stopping now to consider why this momentary trouble is rather excited by liquid substances than by the solid ones of similar action, I beg Dr. Edwards to reflect, that the acceleration of the pulse in such cases, is not accompanied by increased hardness and fulness, that the spasmodic movements of the alimentary canal do but facilitate a cotemporary pernicious action of the acid over a larger extent of surface, and that the paleness of the face and the depression of the spirit will be sooner followed by a slow languishing pulse, and all the apparatus of the successively increasing depression of any vital function. I do not know what Dr. Edwards means by saying, that *even the first effect of a small dose of the prussic acid taken into the stomach, appears to be that of stimulus;* but there might be some analogy between those *small doses*, and what has been just mentioned of the sulphuric acid, and, perhaps, if it should be question of a drop or two of well diluted prussic acid, the same tonic effect might ensue, of which my last letter did sufficiently speak relatively to vinegar and sulphuric acid taken in sauces. But would Dr. Edwards call an exertion of the *vis medicatrix naturæ* at all the fever which follows the corrosive action of the sulphuric acid all along the gullet and stomach, and which does ordinarily bring a destructive inflammatory congestion to accelerate death? and would he call by chance an exertion of the same force, the nausea and vomiting produced by the molecular agitatory movement, which is imparted in a windy day by a strong unshaken stem of a tree, to the shoulders of a man who might repose on it, or the same effects produced probably by a similar cause in the case of a sea sickness? I take the liberty to make these questions, for to take in the largest sense the *vis medicatrix naturæ* of Dr. Edwards, it might be nearly coupled with that *obscure will*, to which the ingenious, though not always correct Perrault was pleased to attribute the direction of any movement of any fibre in our organic economy, which ought absolutely serve either to entertain the vital proceedings, and repair losses, or to counteract any kind of morbid tendency or disease. For me, however, all in allowing to our will a free directive power of many movements of our organs, particularly all along the nervous and muscular systems, I should believe

more proper to say, that the generality of our organic movements, are necessary effects of the dynamic relations existing between certain substances and certain living surfaces, either those on which they may act *immediately* by their progressive contact, carried sometimes at a great distance by vascular as well as extra-vascular transport, or those in which they might act *mediately* by distant communication of movement, or by sympathetical reactions, let the final result be advantageous or not, to organic economy. Meanwhile let me here abandon for a moment the principal question for the extra-vascular transport, the idea of which might perhaps at first appear strange to you; but since it is well known with what rapidity the swallowed asparagus or turpentine, and much better their aroma applied to the nostrils, or the skin in general, do impart to the urine a peculiar odour, since it is known how soon after dinner traces of citric acid are to be found in the *urine*, when largely drank in lemonades, since the limbs of a person who had drank copiously of brandy, some moments before receiving lead-bullets in his brain and heart, on being separated from his trunk for experiments, have emitted a strong smell of that liquor as if they had been immersed in it. Mascagni himself, who was certainly master of the sanguiferous and lymphatic system, and circulation, and had so ingeniously pointed out the lymphatic if not the sanguiferous origin of the copious urine after dinner, could not account for such phenomena with the only old well known ways of communication. He dared not, however, to speak of an extra-vascular transport, because the natural philosophy of that time did not offer any probable hint, prudent reserve at last adopted by Sir Everard Home too in the similar results of his interesting spleen experiments, from the perusal of which as well as from delicate anatomical inspections, lately shewed to me by Messrs Mayo and Hawkins, I have been confirmed more than ever in the opinion, which, from some accidental observations in man, since the first physiological studies of my youth I had formed of the three principal uses of the spleen, besides some other secondary ones, as I hope to have soon the honour to submit to the judgment of the Medical Public, in a Latin Thesis; but since the galvanic batteries have put beyond doubt under my hands, on the second of last August, that the most heavy substances may be carried with the electrical currents along the plates of the galvanic batteries from pole to pole, in a kind of circulatory way, since muscles and nerves are able even after death, to afford elements of galvanic batteries, as zinc and copper, since the atmosphere of the extremity of a divided nerve may excite tremblings, when approached to muscles being with it in certain relations, and by chance to any muscles, since that only quality of molecular agitatory movement, which is the cause of the caloritic temperatures and sensations, since friction and change of affinities may excite, or increase electrical currents, since the elementary fibres and fluids of the animal organs must be by the very nature of the circulatory and secretory systems in a perpetual state of friction, of change of affinities, and in a perpetual molecular agitatory movement of different velocities and directions, and able therefore to impart different propulsory, rotatory and vorticous movements of any kind, to different orders of moleculæ in the etherial matter which fills the interstices between more cohering masses all over the infinite extent of the spaces, so as to render proba-

ble even some phenomena of the pretended illusory Mesmerism, and of the rational part of the so much exaggerated animal magnetism, since the circumvolutory structure of the organic, particularly nervous and muscular fibres, is the most fit to condense electrical vortexes, as showed by Beccaria in the spiral conductors of accumulation, and since often the surface of the human body throws off sparks like those of an electrical machine, who would accuse any more of audacity a man who grounding his arguments on well proved facts, and the most reasonable conjectures of the actual science of Physics, and on direct observations in the human body, should speak of the great probability of an extravascular transport? What is the force which conveys mercury from the skin of the instep or the ham, to render shining though dull, the fractured bones of the leg or thigh, of persons who died under the mercurial treatment by friction? What is the force which on such occasions may sometimes accumulate masses of revived quicksilver, in the half cariated thickness of the tibia or fibula? Is it not probable that instead of the ordinary long ways of lymphatic and sanguiferous circulation, it should be the same force which transports the deleterious poison of the rattlesnake from the bitten finger all over the same side of the body? But waving this discussion till more numerous facts and more steady arguments than those of Tiedeman, Gmelin, Majendie, Hodgin, &c. may throw greater light on it, and that the venous or lymphatic-venous absorption of any kind to which Mascagni would never give his consent, but in the wounded or monstruous irregular state of our circulatory systems, may yield perhaps its place to the extravascular transport, combined with Emmert's principles of vascular permeability, at least through the capillary vases, exercised from outside into the vases in an analogous though inverse way of the old permeability of organic structure by humours lately revived by many distinguished physiologists, let me add another fact analogous to that of the smell of the brandy in the above-mentioned instances.

When I tried the first time the reanimation of a just drowned cat, more for a practical examination of the management of the new projected instruments, than for any other object, the ætherial vapour emanating from the heated silver globe, did not fail to descend into the stomach of the brute through the leather tubes of reanimation; and though the greatest part of the æther, was afterwards found again in a liquid state at the inferior extremity of the tube and close round it, so that a very limited surface had been under the immediate influence of the ætherial vapour and liquid, and though the stomach was no more in the full state of its vitality, still the limbs of the brute did offer a sensible smell of æther. And here allow me, Sirs, more by way of playing, than of reproach, to say that it was for your insinuations of better surety, that my exertions and those of other collaborators of mine were directed to the final improvement of the gum elastic tubes, in emulation to the contemporary continental makers, to pump water from the stomach of the drowned, as well as diluted poisons, and spirituous liquors even with half digested softy meals, in cases of poisoning or intoxication, rather than to increase a little more the thickness of the external varnish of the same leather tubes, as it has been done of late more easily and economically for their execution, and fortunately if the sutures

and varnish will permanently stand against the pression of the atmosphere under pumping. B. De Sanctis.

[*To be Continued.*]

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL TRANSACTIONS.—The Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, has lately published the last part of the twelfth volume of their Transactions, containing 22 articles, which we are glad to find to possess more useful practical information than their last production.—Article 1. *is "an account of two cases of* Biliary Calculi," *from Mr. Brayne of Banbury.*—The subject of the first case was Widow Woodword, aged 55, of a spare habit, and melancholic temperament. She had enjoyed uninterrupted health until the last year of her life—She was first attacked with pain above the region of the stomach, which returned after certain intervals, chiefly towards night, and were sometimes followed by symptoms of jaundice. Fever supervening, the patient consulted Mr. Brayne, who found her with the following symptoms: "A small quick pulse, foul tongue, disturbed stomach, almost total privation of sleep, constipated bowels, a scanty secretion of urine (high coloured) and great mental excitement, almost amounting to complete alienation. She complained of no pain whatever. Notwithstanding the great skill and judgment Mr. Brayne evinced in his treatment of the case, the patient continued with little or no variation for about thirteen months, when she was *suddenly* seized with severe pain in the left side (iliac region) accompanied by considerable tenderness on pressure, which continued unmitigated for 16 or 18 hours, after which she became *suddenly* easy, and soon passed from the intestinal canal, a calculus of an *extraordinary* size, which was followed in a short time by an abatement of the fever; but she remained in a state of low muttering melancholy for some months, from which she at length recovered under the gentle and long continued influence of mercury on the system. The calculus was rather larger than a pigeon's egg, which it somewhat resembled in shape. It was specifically lighter than distilled water. Mr. Brayne ignited it, and dissolved the residuum in alcohol; but he notices nothing like a chemical process that was adopted to ascertain its composition. He was satisfied that it formed in the gall bladder. At length dropsy of the chest came on, which terminated her existence. On examining the body, he found the liver of the usual size and colour; but he thought the texture somewhat more solid and firm than natural. The biliary ducts were not enlarged, but the gall bladder was much thickened, and diminished in capacity. It had contracted a strong adhesion about the size of a shilling to the duodenum, close to the pylorus: There was no appearance of inflammation. On further examination of this part, a communicating aperture, large enough to admit of a crow quill, was discovered in the centre of the adhesion. This fact, with that of the biliary ducts not being enlarged, proves satisfactorily that after adhesion had formed between the peritoneal covering of the gall bladder, and that if the portion of the intestine with which it was in contact, (the duodenum) the calculus passed directly into the duodenum by suppuration, or that ulcerative or some peculiar process by which foreign articles introduced into the body, frequently travel from one part to another.

In the other case three calculi were evacuated after a costiveness of some days standing, which had resisted croton oil and other powerful purgatives. The calculi were evidently biliary products; but as the patient survived the attack, Mr. Brayne could not say whether they passed through the biliary duct, or by an ulcerative or suppurative, or some other propelling process with which we are unacquainted. Mr. Brayne has not analyzed the productions, for which he assigns the following *philosophical* reason. "I am adverse to destroy their integrity for the purpose of analysis, for there is to *me* something more interesting in their *form* and apparent *mutual connexion*, than in the nature of their ingredients"!

Why he should term the products "calculi of extraordinary dimension," or consider them of a peculiarly beautiful structure, we are at a loss to conjecture; for in the anatomical museums of London and Paris, biliary concretions of much larger dimensions, and exhibiting the same beautiful appearances, are very numerous. Mr. Brayne's cases throw no light on the treatment of biliary concretions. Mr. Travers, who communicated the cases to the Society, considers them "extraordinary examples of the *vast* powers of that great friend to physicians, Dame Nature, (vis medicatrix naturæ) *unaided* by art, producing in *vital* organs, most important *though* scarcely suspected changes, and which, however *slowly*, were ultimately successful." The second paper is from Mr. Henry Earle, on

Morbid alteration of structure, resembling cancer, from the influence of *local* irritation. In one of our early numbers, we have given our opinion of the *value* of a knowledge of morbid structure to the physician, which we repeated in our sketch of the life of the late Dr. Baillie. No practitioner, who is desirous to cultivate the science of medicine, will neglect such investigation; but, we contend, that the man who devotes his time principally to it, will necessarily undervalue the efficacy of medicine, inasmuch as he has only, in cases of internal organic disease, an opportunity of examining them in their last stages. No physician ever entertained a more contemptible opinion of the efficacy of medicinal remedies than the late Dr. Baillie, and his time having been chiefly devoted to the examination of morbid structure after death, the articles he prescribed were of the simplest kind; in fact, they were mere placebos. Morbid structure is the effect of irritation, and if the irritation be subdued, even after an alteration of structure has commenced, the mischief may be removed by judicious topical and constitutional treatment, which by the man whose knowledge of medicine is founded on morbid anatomy, is generally neglected. If irritation be allowed to continue, the process of mutation (absorption and deposition) will be disturbed, and of course the structure of the parts will not be healthy, and the nature of the morbid structure will vary according to the nature of the parts in which it occurs, and on the texture of the body, with respect to cohesion (not on morbid humours) in which every person more or less differs. In cases of scirrhosity of the mammary gland, or what is popularly termed incipient cancer, it is very common for the patient to attribute it to an injury, (either pressure of stays or a blow) she received before she discovered any thing like a tumour. The idea of supposing it to be the consequence of an injury received so many years ago, is generally ridiculed by surgeons; but

the fact is, the irritation excited by the accident, is brought into action every time of menstruation, and will generally precede the menstrual secretion three or four days. The rigidity of the body increasing as the patient advances in life, at length the enlargement of the gland is of that firm texture, that the absorbents are not equal to its removal, and the mass at length accumulates to such an extent, as to compress not only the absorbent but secerning or nutrient vessels, when it becomes a kind of extraneous body, and losing its vitality, a slow process of decomposition takes place in it. That the texture of the female body differs greatly in regard to rigidity, is well known to every midwife of experience and observation, for the os uteri will dilate with much greater rapidity in one female than in another; and it not unfrequently happens, that it is as rigid in a female at the age of twenty as it is in another at the age of forty. In a female even at the age of sixty, we have succeeded in dispersing a scirrhous enlargement of the mammary gland; but when the disease recurred about six years afterwards, the same remedies and more active ones failed even to check its progress; and why? The answer, in our opinion, is clear; because the rigidity of the body had increased with the age of the patient. On the important subject of irritation, we shall make some observations in the present number, under the head of Buchu Leaves.

Mr. Earle very justly observes, there are few more trying situations in which a surgeon, anxious to do his duty, can be placed, than when called upon to decide on the propriety of subjecting his patient to a painful and perhaps hazardous operation, the result of which must, from the very nature of the case, be extremely doubtful. On the one hand, humanity pleads most powerfully against increasing the suffering of a fellow creature without some reasonable prospect of affording lasting benefit, whilst, on the other hand, the cruelty of abandoning him to his fate, without hope or remedy, and thus perhaps sacrificing a valuable life, may be urged with equal if not superior force. This anxious and most painful alternative applies not only to cases of extensive mechanical injury, where we are often called upon without any previous knowledge of the powers of the constitution to decide between mutilation and probable destruction, but likewise to cases which from their progress and character bear a close resemblance to those malignant affections, which experience teaches us, are too deeply rooted in the constitution, to be eradicated by any local operation. It is to the latter description of cases, that Mr. Earle wishes to call the attention of surgeons.

Much, says Mr. Earle, has been done of late years by many eminent pathologists, in assisting us to discriminate between these diseases, and in many instances, the characters are so well defined and the constitutional derangement so manifest, that we are enabled to form a tolerably correct prognosis of the probable issue.

The almost certain recurrence, or co-existence of disease in remote parts of the body, and particularly in some vital organs, which so constantly happens in fungoid affections, after the local complaint has been freely and completely removed, has induced many practitioners to decline operating altogether. My own experience, observes Mr. Earle, and the extensive opportunities I have had of witnessing the practice of others, in these lamentable cases, have convinced me that such a deci-

sion is highly honourable to the profession, and is best calculated to rescue it from opprobrium.

The same observations Mr. Earle thinks "will hold good in most cases of cancer, where the constitution is *evidently* tainted, although in these latter cases, it may sometimes be expedient to obtain temporary ease, and a prolongation of life, by the infliction of a tractable wound, with a view to remove or prevent one, which will inevitably lead to a premature and painful termination of existence."—This being an important subject for discussion, the Medico-Chirurgical Society would have rendered the profession a great service, by publishing the remarks which were made on it, when the paper was discussed. The idea of the system being tainted by a cancerous humour, is entertained by few surgeons of the present day.

Not unfrequently, however, proceeds Mr. Earle, we meet with instances of disease, which, although at first sight they may put on so malignant an aspect, as at once to deter us from proposing any operation, yet, on closer inquiry into the history of such cases, we shall often find that the morbid action has been first excited by some local irritation, and subsequently maintained by local circumstances. In some of these cases, the constitution may be previously disposed to disease; but in many it is only effected by the constitutional pain and excitement produced by the local affection.

Having met with several instances of this description, in which patients have been rescued from the gradual inroads of a lingering disease, and perfectly restored by extirpation of the local malady, Mr. Earle proposes to adduce some of these cases, and to point out certain circumstances which have not met with the attention they merit, although they will be found materially to influence the characters of disease. From the experience, says he, I have already had, I feel convinced that, by early directing our views to counteract the influence of local irritation, we may often succeed in restoring healthy action; whilst, in more advanced stages of disease, we may be induced to resort to operations with far greater confidence of success than the appearance and progress of the complaint would warrant, independently of any such exciting causes.

To illustrate the truth of the preceding remarks, Mr. Earle has introduced the following very interesting cases of phagædenic ulcerations of the lips, the nose, tongue, and prepuce.

Cancer of the Lip.—Mr. Webb, a native of the West Indies, aged 64, consulted Mr. Earle in June, 1816, respecting an ill conditioned ulcer at the angle of the mouth. It commenced in the latter end of 1814, with an induration, which soon ulcerated, and continued to advance unchecked by any application. When he first called on Mr. Earle, the ulceration had so far proceeded as to occasion a falling of the lip, and to allow of an escape of saliva. The whole cheek had a scirrhous feel, and the glands under the jaw had enlarged. It was very foul, and so irritable, that an attempt to masticate occasioned great pain. Mr. Earle, after intimating to him, that the operation which alone could prolong his life, might not succeed, advised him to consult two of the most eminent surgeons of London. These gentlemen discountenanced the use of the knife, and "left him no alternative but to linger on a

little longer, a disgusting object to others, and a loathsome one to himself." The patient, however, sooner than bear the disease any longer, urged Mr. Earle to perform the operation. He accordingly lost no time in "removing the whole of the diseased skin, including the angle of the mouth, with a large portion of each lip, together with a considerable part of the cheek. Previously to using the knife, he extracted several teeth, which he says considerably contributed to the favourable result, by allowing the cut edges to come easily into contact, and by avoiding the irritation which their projecting points would have probably produced. He found it necessary to apply very thin ligatures of silk to two arteries, which he cut off close to the knot, that they might not prove a source of irritation. On this part of the operation, he observes, "it is probable if the ligatures had been suffered to hang out of the wound, they would have acted as conduits for saliva, and thereby prevented the union of the edges of the wound. The parts were held in contact by four of the pins used in the operation for the hare lip, viz. two to the upper, and two to the lower lip. The hare lip bandage, made with fine ribbon instead of thread, was also employed as an auxiliary. On examining the removed diseased part, Mr. Earle discovered the firm white bands and other characters of cancer. After the operation the patient was kept very quiet, and nourishment was conveyed into the stomach by means of an elastic gum bottle and tube. The wound united on the first intention, and the tumefied glands under the jaw gradually decreased till they became of their natural size, and in ten days he was able to leave his house. The degree of deformity was far less than could have been expected, and the aperture of the mouth was sufficiently large for him to take food without the least difficulty. Mr. Earle has lately been informed by the gentleman, that he has continued to enjoy sound health ever since he went through the operation.

The dentist, to whom Mr. Earle sent Mr. Webb, for the purpose of removing the teeth which remained in the lower jaw, declined to extract them, supposing that the disease had extended to the gums, on account of their spongy state. The result of this case, and the gradual diminution of the tumefied glands under the jaw, unquestionably confirm the modern opinion, that cancerous ulceration is not dependent on a morbid condition of the system, or, as the French physicians say, on a vitiated state of the humours. In one of our early numbers we have noticed a case of open cancer of the left breast of a female, in which amputation proved successful, although several glands in the axilla and neighbourhood were very much tumefied. In that case, the glandular swellings gradually decreased after the removal of the diseased breast.

Mr. Earle, after briefly noticing four cases of disease of the lower lip with the same threatening aspect, (one of which was produced by the action of the pipe during the regular system of smoking) in which removal of the diseased parts by the knife succeeded, observes, "From my own experience, and from witnessing the success of others, I may venture to affirm, that few cases afford greater promise of success than those corroding ulcers, with scirrhous edges, which occur about the lips. The operation is so simple, and the wound so constantly unites by the first intention, that in cases that do not readily yield to local and constitutional treatment, it is far better to resort to it, and often the deformity

will be less than when the ulceration heals without any operation. One circumstance may be worth adverting to, both in operating for the removal of a diseased portion of lip, and in the hare lip operation, it is better to introduce first the pin that is nearest the edge of the lip, the exact coaptation of the red margin of the lip is thus rendered more certain, and where this is nicely attended to, it is hardly possible, at a slight distance, to perceive that any operation has been performed."

Mr. Earle's cases of diseases of the nose, of the tongue, of the cancer of chimney sweepers; Mr. Holland's extraordinary case of destruction of the fœtal brain; and Dr. Roots's case of wen cured by iodine, we shall notice in our next number.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS. *To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.* —Gentlemen, I trust your impartiality will permit a few observations in reply to the very extraordinary opinions of your correspondent, "Edwards, M.D.," contained in your last number. With respect to the article QUININE, which, in "his idea," is a new *product*, and not an *educt*. Now, my "idea" unhappily corresponds with those "philosophical dreamers of the grand city," so contemptuously alluded to by your correspondent, and entertaining something like fellow feeling in the censure thus cast upon them, I shall proceed to advance, with great deference, a few arguments in defence of those gentlemen, who, in common with myself, presume to entertain "ideas" different from your correspondent. He *asserts*, "that the chemical agents employed are decomposed, and form part of the new product." By what means he arrived at this conclusion, I know not, for, whether QUININE is procured by the sulphuric or the muriatic acid, we invariably obtain the same result. And as neither of these acids possess an element common to both, consequently none of the elements of the chemical agent can have entered into the *educt*. And let it be remarked, that these new vegetable principles always partake, in an eminent degree, both of the medical and chemical qualities which were to be found in existence in certain substances previous to their being submitted to the operation. For example, emetine in ipecacuanha, morphia in opium, strychnine in nux vomica, &c. For we have never yet known that when elements have undergone a change during an operation, but that it must necessarily alter the product; and consequently, neither emetine nor morphia could ever have been procured, according to the theory of your learned correspondent. And his objection to "the subjecting of bark to an expensive and elaborate process," is scarcely worth an answer; for it has long been a desideratum, to have a solid preparation, possessing all the virtues of the bark without its inert matter, and soluble in the fluids of the stomach, which is to be found in the SULPHATE OF QUININE; the process for the obtaining of which is neither expensive nor elaborate. The *apparent* expence arises from the smallness of the product, and the elaborateness, I presume to imagine, is to be found only in "the idea" of your correspondent.

As to the new product being obtained from "resin," your correspondent is evidently wrong, for "resin," as he is pleased to term it, is quinine combined with extractive and other impurities, and, according to Dumas and Pelletier, perhaps no mean authorities, who give the following as their

analysis of quinine: "carbon 75.00, oxygen 10.43, hydrogen 6.66, azote 8.45." And, on the authority of Dr. Ure, the analysis of resin is as under: "carbon 73.60, hydrogen 12.90, oxygen 13.50;" from which it is to be inferred by the total absence of azote in resin, that quinine cannot be obtained from it. And this same resin, as he calls it, is partly dissolved, and partly suspended in the decoction, and on adding *diluted* sulphuric acid, or any acid which forms soluble salts with quinine, is taken up. Now, resin does not possess this quality. Again, if infusion of nut-galls be added to decoction of bark, a precipitate is thrown down; the same occurs if we had gallic acid. The active principle of the gall-nut, to solutions of quinine in alcohol, which, with all deference to his "idea," I say, is is nearly *insoluble* in water. I cannot conclude these remarks without noticing some further singularities of your Parisian theorist, who observes, "that it is said that iodine is a constituent part of burnt spunge." Mr. Thompson, in his Dispensatory, has noticed this. Your correspondent further informs us, "that had it existed in burnt sponge, it would have escaped during calcination." Perhaps it may have escaped this sagacious personage, that the great resource for iodine is from *the calcination of sea weeds, usually termed kelp, or barilla.* And if he had analyzed the two articles, he might have discovered that it is the same principle which renders the iodine fixed in both instances. But, the strangest thing of all, is the learned gentleman's "idea," that PYROLIGNEOUS acid is not to be found in *recent* wood. The *name* might have informed him that he could lay claim to no new discovery! If it allowed me to offer a suggestion, it is, that it might furnish some useful employment for his leisure hours, if he would endeavour to detect spirits in sugar—or vinegar in barley. For if your correspondent is not more richly imbued with a practical knowledge of his own art, than he appears to be with the established laws of chemistry, he must, I conceive, possess abundant *time* for the correction of his numerous errors and deficiencies, before he attempts to enlighten mankind on those subjects.

I am, Gentlemen, your's, &c.

Jan. 10, 1824. WILLIAMS, M.D.

BUCHU LEAVES.—A Lecturer on the theory and practice of Surgery in London, observed to us about three months since, that in consequence of our recommendation, he had given the buchu leaves an extensive trial in irritative affections of the bladder and urethra, with various effects; in some cases proving very beneficial, and in others affording only temporary ease. In a few days afterwards, three of the patients, on whose complaints the medicine had only proved a palliative, placed themselves under other care. One patient (seventy-six years of age) had been more or less afflicted with pain at the neck of the bladder for about thirty-five years; another (fifty-four years of age) had more or less suffered from pain at the neck of the bladder about twenty years; and the third (aged forty-eight years) had been afflicted with a disease of the bladder and urethra fifteen years. They had all been officers in the army, and their constitutions had been impaired by high living and a long residence in tropical climates. On examination, we found the prostate gland in each much enlarged, and the regular discharge of slime, with the urine and the occasional discharge of pus and blood, shewed

that the coats of the bladder were much diseased. The report of this "Lecturer on surgery," points out the necessity of surgeons making a distinction between simple irritation, i. e. irritation without organic disease, and irritation attendant on organic disease, or structural derangement. In simple irritation of the bladder, prostate gland, or urethra, the tincture, extract, and the infusion of the buchu leaves, uniformly afford immediate relief, and in a short time effectually quiet the parts, so as to cure the patient; and even in compound irritation, or irritation complicated with, or dependant on organic mischief, it will succeed in allaying pain; but no surgeon acquainted with the formidable structural derangement that takes place in the coats of the bladder and in the substance of the prostate gland, would expect such a remedy to cure the disease. By quieting the nerves, producing healthy secretion of the kidneys and mucous glands of the bladder and urethra, it is a valuable auxiliary to other remedies in organic affections of the urinary organs. In organic diseases of the bladder and urethra, the irritation generally extending up the ureters to the kidneys, the urine is of a morbid quality, often strongly impregnated with irritating salts, as the phosphate and muriate of soda, which aggravate the primary disease; hence the buchu leaves, by correcting the secretion, prove very beneficial, even if they did not possess the property of allaying irritation of membranes and *secreting surfaces*, which they do in an eminent degree.

Irritation, by destroying the equilibrium of action between the secerning extremities of arteries and the absorbent vessels, is the cause of organic mischief or derangement of structure; but in some constitutions it will exist many years, without deranging the organization of the parts. Organic disease being the consequence of irritation, a medicine such as the buchu leaves, by allaying it, is therefore capable of preventing most serious disease. The speedy relief they afford in irritative affection of secreting membranes, indnces us to consider them to manifest a specific action on mucus membranes, and such a remedy is unquestionably a great desideratum in medicine. Even after organic mischief has taken place, when rendered quiescent by an anodyne, it will in a healthy subject gradually decrease, till it disappears, and hence some anodynes, as the hemlock, henbane, &c. have obtained the character of being "discutients," and the reputation of having cured scirrhous tumours. In all organic disease, the first object of the surgeon is to render it quiescent, that is, to allay the attendant irritation, and when this is affected, to attempt to bring the absorbent vessels of the part into action. The diseased mass, as we have already observed in an early number, is the consequence of a disturbed state of the nutrient vessels more than of the absorbents, and when the cause is removed (irritation) by increasing the action of the absorbent vessels, the accumulated mass or diseased structure, may be removed, and if not entirely removed, its bulk may be so reduced and altered in structure, as to become quiescent for life. When the buchu leaves have allayed the irritation of an organic affection of the urethra, prostate gland, the coats of the bladder, or of the rectum, they have done their duty, and the surgeon has then to employ with it such medicines that are likely to invigorate the absorbent vessels. The only remedies which act specifically on absorbents, so as to increase their action, are mercury and foxglove, and if these be judiciously administered, or as

Mr. Brayne of Banbury observes, mildly continued, so that their local and constitutional operation be regulated, diseased structure, even of long standing, may be either removed or rendered stationary. The effects of mercury on the system should be particularly watched, for if the circulation be accelerated, or what is termed mercurial fever be produced, the local irritation will probably be revived, and the constitution so impaired, as to give way to the local malady. As soon as mercury acts on the gums or salivary glands, it should be immediately discontinued till the effect is gone off. Attention should be paid, during the use of mercury, to the general health, particularly the state of the digestive organs, bowels, and sanguiferous system. In order to secure a quiet state of the organic disease, or prevent a recurrence of irritation, besides the buchu leaves, it will also be proper to keep up irritation, either on the skin of the abdomen, or of the thigh, by the occasional use of emetic tartar ointment. By this mode of treatment we have succeeded in curing most formidable organic diseases of the prostate gland, coats of the bladder, neck of the womb, and rectum. To allay irritation attendant on organic disease, requires little time; but to remove the structural organization, often requires as many years as the irritation does days. Patients afflicted with organic disease, should consider that *patience* is a most important auxiliary to medicine. A person with a diseased prostate gland, after having been under the care of the celebrated Dr. William Hunter upwards of a month, asked the doctor when he might expect to be cured. The doctor, in return, asked him how long the disease had been advancing. The patient replied, "I think, Sir, about ten years." "Then, Sir," observed the doctor, "you cannot reasonably expect it to decrease more rapidly than it advanced, and if you are cured in the same time as it has been coming on, you have reason to be thankful, for having escaped a most dreadful death, and for having your life prolonged." It is scarcely possible for a patient afflicted with an organic disease of the prostate gland, to say how long it has existed; for irritation from which he dates its commencement, will often exist many years before structural mischief takes place. A patient, afflicted with organic disease of the liver or stomach, or some other internal organ, is very apt to become dissatisfied with his medical attendant, when his general health is a little disturbed by mercury, and not unfrequently when the remedy has accomplished what he intended to effect. The next medical gentleman to whom he applies, will probably have the liberality either directly or indirectly to insinuate that there was no necessity of employing such a strong *mineral poison* as mercury, and by employing a mild stomachic medicine, and attending to the bowels, the general health will soon improve and complete the cure, the credit of which he will not hesitate to claim, and which the patient will indeed readily give him, although, in fact, due to the medical gentleman on whom they had lavished abuse. In cases of organic disease of the stomach, liver, and uterus, very common diseases in this country, the continued use of mercury, at short intervals, for many months, is necessary either to effect a cure or to suspend the progress of the malady. It is very common, in this country, to consider all affections of the stomach and uterus as sympathetic or symptomatic of a diseased state of the liver, and to administer mercury to remove the supposed primary disorder, and fortunately for patients afflicted with organic disease of the

stomach or uterus, the treatment is applicable to each complaint. The disease of the stomach which terminated the life of Napoleon Bonaparte, was declared by all his physicians to be seated in the liver, that organ, on dissection, was found to be perfectly sound: had, however Bonaparte followed the advice of his physicians, (although their opinion as to the *seat* of his malady was not correct) and have taken mercury with hemlock and a mild stomachic, he would probably have been alive at this time. In cases of organic disease of the stomach, it is absolutely necessary, during the use of mercury, to keep the part in a quiet state by exciting irritation over the region of the stomach, by the euphorbium plaster or emetic tartar ointment, for without it, irritation will occasionally be excited by acid matter or some article of diet that might disorder the stomach, if the nerves were not kept in a quiescent state by such derivative irritation. We lately met with a case of long standing indigestion, that had been under the care of several *eminent* physicians of the *legitimate* class for many years, without being in the slightest degree relieved, which gave way in six months to a regular mild use of mercury and a perpetual blister, under the direction of a surgeon. The patient favoured us with a sight of the prescriptions of all the leading physicians of London whom he consulted, amounting *only* to 162!!! The prussic acid, carbonate of soda, hemlock, Peruvian bark, and nearly all *the cooling, stimulating*, and *tonic* medicines had had a fair trial!—The patient having found no benefit from legitimate medicine, fortunately determined to try what virtue there was in surgery; the surgeon proceeded on true surgical principles, and the result was a removal of the cause of his suffering. The thickening of the stomach was evident on external examination.

Irritation is a term in very common use both in domestic and regular medical practice; on a consultation, it is generally repeated, at least twenty or thirty times; it is like some others, as sympathetic, symptomatic, morbid actions, hepatic derangement, &c. which to the legitimate physician is as useful as the Latin language, as a cloak for ignorance. Common as the term is, few perhaps understand the precise meaning, or the state of disease of the part to which the term is applied. The different meanings which have been affixed to it, have occasioned some confusion among physicians and surgeons. Some practitioners apply the term to excitement of parts from an *excess* of vitality, but we find it to take place in parts that are relaxed, and in which there is a deficiency of vitality, and which is cured by stimulating medicines—Others consider it as dependant on inflammation, but it occurs without any appearance of its leading characters, as increased heat and distention of vessels; and others consider irritation as morbid excitement from the effects of some mechanical or chemical stimulus, but it often originates without any such cause. The term irritability is employed by the moderns to signify a power resident in muscles, viz. the contractibility of their fibres, which is independant of the influence of the nerves; it is, however, common for legitimate physicians, or the Oxford and Cambridge doctors, to speak of *nervous* irritability—in Paris's Pharmacologia there are about 100 medicines recommended for *nervous* irritability! Irritation is not confined to muscles, for it is sometimes attended with relaxation, but more frequently with rigidity of muscular fibres. The seat of irritation, although not

exactly a state of morbid sensibility, is chiefly in nerves and arteries, frequently attended with rigidity of muscular and other fibres, and sometimes with relaxation of them, sometimes with increased secretion of the part, when it occurs in a secreting membrane or organ, and sometimes with a deficiency. It may be excited by a mechanical or chemical stimulus, in which case it precedes inflammation, which it accompanies, but sometimes the nerves and arteries take upon themselves the action without any apparent local cause, and in such case it is often the forerunner of inflammation, but in secreting membranes, an increased secretion generally ensues, which by unloading the arteries prevents actual inflammation. We have attempted a practical definition of irritation, because we are convinced that many valuable medicines have fallen into disuse, in consequence of their not succeeding in curing irritative diseases, for which they were not recommended, or of their not having been properly administered. The Buchu Leaves are introduced as a remedy for allaying irritation of the urinary organs and of secreting surfaces, and when the irritation is simple, i. e. not connected with morbid structure or active inflammation, they will effect a cure, and when connected with morbid structure either in the prostate gland, coats of the bladder or rectum, or the membrane lining the urethra, it is a most important adjunct to the remedies noticed above, for increasing the action of the absorbent vessels, and when irritation is accompanied with inflammation, after an abstraction of blood either from the neighbourhood of the disease, by leeches or by general bleeding according to the state of the whole sanguiferous system, the remedy will speedily reduce the irritation and render the part healthy. They are also a most valuable auxiliary, in consequence of correcting the secretion of the kidneys or of the mucous gland of the bladder and urethra, by removing two sources of irritation. In our treatise on the Buchu Leaves, which we published as an Addition to our Appendix (containing an account of such diseases, which from motives of delicacy we only briefly notice in our regular numbers) we have introduced several cases of most distressing irritative affections of the urinary organs and rectum, in which the tincture, infusion and extract were administered with complete success, and since that work was published, we have met with several cases equally distressing, in which they completely succeeded. In cases of morbid irritation of the stomach, a very common cause of indigestion in this country, from the abuse of vinous or spirituous liquors, or the adoption of high-seasoned diet, and of that disordered state of the whole nervous system occasioned by abuse of liquors or mental anxiety or study, on which the malady termed hypochondriasis is dependant, the saturated tincture of the leaves is also a valuable remedy. In such cases two teaspoonsful of the tincture, may be taken two or three times a day either in a wine glass of the decoction of Iceland moss, camomile tea, or water, according to the state of the digestive organs. In organic affections of the prostate gland, coats of the stomach, and especially when the irritation extends to the rectum, which is generally the case, an anodyne suppository is a most important auxiliary to the remedies we have recommended above—as the following composition:

Take of Extract of Henbane;
——— white Poppies; of each ten grains,

When the coats of the rectum are diseased, or the hemorrhoidal ves-

sels distended, fifteen grains of the blue, may be added to the above prescription. The suppository may be introduced into the rectum every night, after besmearing the external part with oil or spermaceti ointment.

Mr. Guthrie, an eminent surgeon of London, prescribes the tincture of Buchu Leaves in cases of morbid irritation of the urethra and bladder, with the wine of the colchicum seeds, and in gouty habits, and when the irritation is bordering on inflammation, this addition of the colchicum seeds wine is no doubt judicious.

SNUFF, &c.—Mr. Earle, in a communication to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, states, that he has met with cases of irritable thickening of the upper lip, approaching the character of incipient cancer, which were evidently occasioned by the habitual use of snuff. This experienced and observant surgeon "once saw a corroding ulcer of the upper lip with surrounding hardness, in an elderly gentleman. It having been declared to be of a cancerous nature, it created great alarm in the mind of the patient. The total abandonment of the practice of taking snuff, and the adoption of mild applications and plugging up the nostrils, to prevent the descent of any irritating discharge, soon altered the character of the complaint, which terminated favourably, without any operation. One of Napoleon's physicians, attributed the organic disease of the stomach, which terminated his life, to the anodyne effects of snuff, for, says he, more than three parts of the snuff, snuffed up the nostrils, pass into the stomach. In cases of irritative ulcerations of the nostrils, resembling cancer, the use of common snuff (simple tobacco powder) has been recommended, to keep down irritation, and in some instances it has proved beneficial; Mr. Earle, however, attributes the baneful effects of snuff to its *irritating* effects. Mr. Stanley has communicated to Mr. Earle, a case of phagedænic ulcer of each lip, resembling cancer, which were occasioned by smoking segars. The thickening and ulceration took place in the parts of the lips with which the segar came in contact. The ulcers were very painful, and a few days after their appearance the absorbent glands under each side of the jaw swelled, became very painful, and the general health much impaired. Various applications were made to the sores, but without influencing their character. After continuing troublesome for five weeks, they spontaneously healed; but an irruption over the face and neck followed, which gave way to the blue pill and decoction of sarsaparilla. Mr. Stanley could give "no other explanation of the ulcerations of the lips, than by attributing them to the *irritation* of the segar. "Perhaps," says he, "the tobacco acted as a poison to the skin, the *susceptibility* of this action being derived from the debilitated state of the system, the patient having been rendered very weak by a *considerable* loss of blood." This is the first time we have heard of the loss of blood rendering the system more susceptible of the action of a stimulus, or rendered more liable to irritation. Structural derangement is, no doubt, very frequently the effect of irritation kept up by a stimulus, but it is also the consequence of a deposit of lymph in the cellular substances or interstices, from sluggish circulation and indolent state of the absorbents; hence organic disease of the stomach, or some other viscus, is common in people who are in the habit of smoking, taking snuff, opiates, and malt liquor, the

latter of which, when well hopped, or adulterated with vegetable anodynes, is a powerful sedative or in irritant.

With respect to the use of snuff, Professor Cullen states, that he found the stimulating ones, when they produced a copious discharge of mucous or serous fluid from the nostrils, to prove very beneficial in cases of head ache, either nervous or plethoric, pain in the ear, and inflammation of the eyes. He also supposed that its occasional use might prevent apoplexy and palsy. Morgagni and Van Swieten, fancied that a stimulating snuff, by exciting sneezing, might occasion such a determination of blood to the brain as to occasion apoplexy in a person predisposed to the disease; and Dr. Paris, who is of the same opinion, fancies that it was on account of this effect of sneezing, that gave rise to the custom in Greece and Italy, of exclaiming, on hearing a person sneeze, "May you live," or, "God bless you."

The Tobacco Snuffs, on nervous subjects, not accustomed to their use, often occasion giddiness, head ache, and nausea, not by stimulating but by their anodyne effects, which effects are generally removed by sneezing. In young subjects, where arterial plethora prevails, the vessels of the head become so overloaded by sneezing, as to occasion bleeding at the nose, and even effusion of the eyes; but in elderly people, where *venous* fulness prevails, sneezing evidently unloads the veins and sinuses of the brain, and we have always found it to prove beneficial even during the existence of symptoms of impending apoplexy. There is a great difference between venous and arterial plenitude. In elderly people, the venous system is often so overloaded, as to oppress the heart and arteries, and the arterial system being in an opposite state, the former is to be relieved by increasing the action of the heart and arteries; and hence sneezing and vomiting, although they increase the determination of blood to the head, unload the veins and sinuses, for the circulation of the blood in the veins depends on the power of the heart and arteries. If blood be taken from the arterial system when the venous system is overloaded, either by cupping or by opening an artery, the venous plethora will be increased, and fatal apoplexy has been known to follow both operations in elderly people. The sudden fatal termination of apoplexy, and its occurrence in elderly people, after abstraction of blood, has been noticed by the celebrated Heister. The doctrine is too modern for the notice of Dr. Paris and his learned college brethren. The cause of the benediction being so generally bestowed on those who sneeze, in Greece and Italy, is not on account of the mischief it may do in the brain, but because in the epidemic of both countries it is often the forerunner of death, and when a patient afflicted with the epidemic, it being a very unfavourable indication, the bystanders, on hearing it, exclaim, "May you live," or, "God bless you." In the typhus fever of this country, even when the brain is apparently overloaded, sneezing is a very favourable indication. When the Editor suffers from an overloaded state of the blood vessels of the brain, to which he is subject, he always takes a pinch of a camphorated asarabacca powder, noticed in an early number, and when it excites sneezing it never fails to afford immediate relief, the circulation in the extremities and the action of the skin being evidently increased by it, and even the distended veins of the extremities reduced to their natural size. The operation of sneezing, he is persuaded,

equalizes the circulation, and promotes the secretion of the skin. The use of an anodyne snuff, as that of tobacco, by diminishing nervous energy or arterial action, will occasion venous plenitude of the brain; and this is a common effect of common snuff, when it does not produce sneezing and a secretion from the nostrils. The cephalic snuff, generally sold in this country, being only common tobacco snuff, perfumed with the oil of lavender, rosemary, &c. is equally objectionable.

The venous congestion which prevails in the typhus fever, particularly noticed by Dr. Armstrong, indicates more the use of tonic medicines than the lancet. The circulation of the blood in the veins as much depends on the action of the heart as that of the arteries, and when the veins are overloaded the heart will be proportionably oppressed, and hence blood taken from a vein will raise the pulse. In such cases, the state of pulse affords no indication as to the propriety of bleeding, for after an abstraction of blood, in cases of venous congestion, it will become fuller and stronger. If blood be abstracted by leeches, or by cupping, the pulse will become feeble, and the general strength of the patient more reduced; because the blood thus abstracted will be more from the arterial than the venous system. After unloading the venous system, tonic and cordial medicines are often necessary to restore the equilibrium of the circulation; and hence the practice of *bleeding* and exhibiting cordial or tonic medicines at the same time, is not "inconsistent," as a certain pharmacological quack, of the class of legitimate physicians, from his ignorance of the principle on which they were adopted, asserts.

EPILEPSY AND ST. VITUS'S DANCE.—A popular writer informs us, that he has administered the saturated tincture of the foxglove in the doses of 20 to 40 drops three times a day, in a little water, with complete success, in four cases of St. Vitus's dance. The patients were all females, and the eldest was only twelve years of age. He states, that after reflecting some time on the phenomena of this disease, it appeared to him to arise from an increased irritability, from the equilibrium between the nervous and muscular systems being interrupted. Having attributed the effects of digitalis, in checking the velocity of the blood, or allaying arterial excitement, to its diminishing the irritability of the heart, he determined to give the digitalis a trial in St. Vitus's dance, and the very favourable results have convinced him that his idea of the cause of the disease is correct. With the view of strengthening the nervous system, and re-establishing the equilibrium between the muscular and nervous systems, he directed cold water to be applied to the head for fifteen minutes every morning, by means of napkins, and the cold bath once a week. On the youngest patient, only three years of age, he thought the cold bath had "a bad effect, by alarming the mind." He adds, "I am disposed to consider epilepsy dependant on a similar cause, and to differ from St. Vitus's dance, in consequence of arising from some organic mischief of the brain. The paroxysms, he regards as an effort of nature, to establish the equilibrium between the nerves and muscular fibres of the body, and if such did not take place, the patient would become idiotic, or an excess of irritability would exist, as in St. Vitus's dance." Since he has formed this opinion of the cause of epilepsy, he has not met with a case to give the digitalis a trial, and if any of our readers

should administer it in this malady, he hopes they will communicate the result to the profession, through the medium of this work.

A respectable gentleman, who has devoted much of his time to the study of medicine, informs us that he determined entirely to alter the diet of a young woman who had been subject to epilepsy, and who had received no benefit from the various remedies which had been recommended both by the ancient and modern practitioners, conceiving, as a process of mutation is constantly going on in the living body, that diet must be a more powerful alterative than medicine. He accordingly desired the patient to relinquish meat, vegetables, and fermented liquors, and to confine herself to a milk diet. After persevering in this diet (taking milk for breakfast, dinner and supper) one month, her general health was evidently improved, and since that time, a period of three years, she has not experienced a recurrence of a fit.

CONSTIPATION.—The following valuable practical observations on constipation, from different causes, from the pen of Dr. William Maxwell, were lately read at a meeting of the Medical Society of Dumfries.

"I have selected constipation, or the suspension of the power of evacuating the intestinal canal, as the subject of my first communication, in consequence of the very great vexation I have met with from such cases in early practice." The following observations, he confines entirely to cases unaccompanied by change of structure, and dividing the subject into the following sections:—1stly, Constipation from indurated feces; 2dly, From intro-susception, angular position of the intestine and other visceral displacements, with ileus from spasmodic contraction; and, 3dly, debility of the bowels, from palsy.

"In describing the means of relief, I confine myself to those I have employed with most success. The cases are given without entering with much minuteness into the distinguishing symptoms of the three different divisions—of which, I confess, I have only been able to satisfy myself very imperfectly, even in their early stages. I shall, in the first division, notice the very few symptoms that generally indicate its incipient progress—a costive habit; with scanty evacuations of indurated feces; an uneasy sense of fulness, generally in some part of the large intestines; general sense of uneasiness, with little or no pain on forcing up copious injections, except from a feeling of general distention; this feeling terminating at the part where the progress of injection appears to be interrupted. In this part, a lump may frequently be distinguished on external examination. Thinking that I shall be best understood by a detail of the treatment of individual affections, I have selected the following instance from above eighty successful cases; and in about fifty of these, the usual means of bleeding, purging, warm bathing, cold effusion, injections, antimonials, tobacco, opium, and blisters had been employed, as circumstances seemed to indicate.

"September, 1804. Mr. Y. of Annan, a healthy young man, of costive habit, returned from shooting, cold, wet, and much fatigued—his bowels had not been relieved for two days. After a restless night, he arose unrefreshed, without appetite, feeling an uneasy sensation near the top of the colon. He took a large dose of salts without effect. Third day he applied for medical advice. Bleeding, purging, warm

bathing, tobacco, and purging injections were used. The uneasy local sensation became painful, extending over the belly, with a sense of contraction opposite to the right kidney. Stercoraceous vomiting, with rapid pulse, restlessness, considerable thirst, and tension of the belly. This state of symptoms advanced very gradually till the 23d day of this disease, when I first saw him. Having frequently used injections of warm linseed oil with much advantage in cases of hardened feces, the lubricity of this fluid allowing it to pass more readily than water, and its purgative quality being sufficient to excite a gentle action in the bowels, I had still some hopes of its efficacy in this very advanced case: an injection-pipe was used with a shoulder, which pressing on the anus, prevented regurgitation. The pipe was five or six inches long from the shoulder to the thick end, on which a bladder was firmly fixed by the mouth, and thus preserved entire. It was filled by a funnel put into the small mouth of the pipe. Having introduced the small end, which was from two to three inches long from the shoulder, an assistant pressed the shoulder firmly against the anus, the patient lying on his right side, the loins raised on a pillow, while the practitioner, grasping the bag, forced its contents forward. When three pounds of the warm linseed oil had been thrown up in this way, the patient complained of pain from distension; and a sensible resistance was experienced by the operator. The oil could not be retained above five minutes, although strong pressure was made upon the anus with a ball of linen—it was returned nearly pure. The clyster was repeated every two or three hours, as the strength of the patient admitted. Two large lumps of indurated feces were passed with the fourth clyster, and Mr. Y. thought he felt the interruption removed from the right side to the upper part of the sigmoid flexure. The fifth injection was followed by three large lumps, one of them of the size, and nearly of the shape, of a small pullet's egg, and these again by free evacuations."

Doctor Maxwell observes, "it is a mistaken idea, that a valvular structure at the end of the ilium and beginning of the colon, can prevent the progress of injections. In these parts, the intestine is only a little thickened and contracted. In a healthy state of the bowels, warm water may be made to pass upwards into the stomach. When a large quantity of fluid is forced up by injection, the patient should be placed in a posture that would allow the bowels to hang at nearly right angles with the spine. About fifteen years ago, in a case of colic, from which Mr. H., a master gardener, had suffered for twenty-four hours, I threw up three gallons and a half of warm water, (accurately measured) before it reached the stomach. In a healthy state of the intestines, I believe, that, by attending to posture, any quantity of water may be made to pass from the rectum to the mouth.

"Having found, by dissection, in several cases that had been supposed intro-susception, that the mischief had been occasioned by an angular portion of the bowels stopping the progress of its contents, and that, when the two surfaces adhere, which frequently very soon takes place, there is very little chance of replacing it, either by purgatives or water injections, I thought that the bowel might probably be restored to its natural situation by inflation; and believing that the same treatment would apply to intro-susception and spasmodic affections, I remained

on the look out for such affections during some years. It was from having failed in relieving a young lady from England, who died in the King's Arms Inn here, about ten years ago, that I first thought of inflation with air from the lungs, being sensible that something beyond the power of injection might be occasionally required."

The Doctor then gives the particulars of four cases, in which inflation succeeded, from which we select the following:—

"After performing the operation above the ring for strangulated rupture of three days standing, in a man aged 45, the bowels remained costive, although strong purgatives and clysters had been administered. A piece of cork nearly flat, was placed on a male catheter, at three inches from the point, which was introduced into the rectum. The patient being placed on his back in bed, and the cork pressed firmly against the anus, the bowels were gradually inflated, the top of the catheter being stopped with the tongue during inspiration. When the air had occasioned considerable distinction; it was readily expelled, but nothing followed. Pondering upon my disappointment, it occurred to me, that the sudden distension of the colon might press so much upon the ilium, that the air could not enter it. I resumed the operation, blowing slowly, and with the left hand pressing the air forward along the colon into the ilium: when the distention began to give much pain, the air was allowed to escape, and in about an hour it was followed by copious stools. The patient walked out on the 15th day after the operations. In three of the cases active purgatives with clysters had been given freely, and the warm bath and blisters employed." The treatment by inflation with air from the lungs, the Doctor has adopted with success in seven other cases. During the inflation, the patient must lie on his back, and the distension be made gradually, pressing the air along the colon into the ilium. "Unless attention be paid to these circumstances," the Doctor observes, "the operation will not succeed."

Of the successful treatment of constipation from palsy, the Doctor relates two cases, from which we select the following: "Mr. C——— aged 61, after much fatigue and intemperance, and anxiety of mind, had an attack of inflammatory fever, and although depleting remedies had been actively employed, symptoms of palsy began to appear below the neck, and in spite of purgatives and injections, the bowels remained immovable, and the belly tense, without any stool for seventeen days; but little uneasiness was felt in the abdomen, even on hard pressure being made. An electrifying machine being procured, three shocks were passed through the belly without being felt. He thought he was sensible of the fourth, and complained of their becoming successively stronger. After fifty had been given, the ten following occasioned considerable pain; he then felt a disposition to have a stool, his bowels moved freely, and Mr. C. recovered."

The Doctor condemns the practice of attempting to prevent vomiting in cases of obstructed bowels. "It is," says he, "by an inversion of the intestinal action alone, that the distended bowels can be relieved from the pressure of its contents till the impediment can be removed." On inspecting the body of a patient who had died after the operation for a rupture, it was evident, that vomiting with inverted action of the ilium, would have saved him, by removing the immense quantity of fluid in the

bowels, which had pressed them to the bottom of the pelvis. Since this unfortunate case the Doctor has generally promoted vomiting, even in cases of strangulated rupture. Mr. Abernethy says, that a fluid cannot by any means be conveyed clysterwise beyond the sigmoid flexure, and from the experiments we have seen made on a dead body, we for some time supposed that the valvular structure at the end of the ilium would prevent it passing into the small intestines. We have lately met with a case of violent spasms of the intestines, in which three gallons of warm water were thrown up by a machine (invented by the ingenious mechanic and surgical instrument-maker, Mr. Weiss, of the Strand,) before the patient experienced much relief. In that case, the fluid did not enter the stomach. We have also met with an instance of atmospheric air passing upwards with great velocity, and escaping through the mouth, in consequence of the mismanagement of Mr. Machell's apparatus, noticed in a former number. Mr. Read, an ingenious manufacturer of instruments, chiefly for agricultural purposes, has lately invented a lavement syringe, by which a fluid may be thrown up the intestinal canal, with greater force and facility than any other machine. This instrument has been much used by Chisholm, an eminent physician of Canterbury, both in his private and hospital practice. The Doctor states, "that he has found this instrument of infinite service in obstructions of the bowels, when it has been necessary to throw up very large injections, in spite of the resistance made by the patient. A case of this sort, (Ileus from Intrusception,) occurred to him in August, 1822, when *five quarts* of soap and water were thrown up, affording immediate relief. The Doctor, adds, in a case of strangulated hernia (recent) attempts to reduce it having failed, a large clyster was thrown up, the attempt made again, and the gut after a short time receded. I have lately had an opportunity of trying a similar practice, but without success, whether or not from the intestine having been longer strangulated, I cannot say—large injections are at least worth the trial. I consider Read's instrument superior to all others that I have seen, being very simple, and of course little liable to get out of order, easily used, and possessing great power, so that any quantity of fluid may be thrown up almost in a continued stream, even although the patient may make great resistance. The elastic gum tube should be substituted for the leather one, now attached to this instrument—they are much neater, and not so liable to crack.

"Mr. Read called on me twice in August last, when I pointed out to him with what facility a tube might be added to the lower extremity of the instrument, for the purpose of extracting fluids from the stomach. He has acted on my suggestion, and as you know, the instrument has been tried at Guy's, and answers well."

In our next number we intend to give an engraving of Mr. Read's, lavement syringe, with the tubes he has added, on the suggestion of Dr. Chisholm, for conveying a fluid into the stomach, and emptying it in cases of a poison being swallowed.

INDIGESTION.—We have received several cases of indigestion, &c. from the scientific Mr. La Beaume, which were cured by the application of the galvanic fluid. We are sorry we cannot for the present spare room for more than the following:—S. M. Esq. about 48 years of age, became my patient on the 21st of April last. His case was indigestion,

torpid liver, attended with loss of strength and spirits, amounting to a high degree of melancholy. This complicated disorder, he had laboured under about eleven years, during which period he had attended some of the leading physicians and surgeons, without experiencing, as he stated, "the slightest relief." After having tried various medical remedies, visited the different watering places for change of air, and change of scene, and gone through the most active mercurial treatment in vain, he was strongly recommended to me by a gentleman residing in the Borough, attached to one of the hospitals, who had been a patient of mine, who had recovered by my plan of treatment. On Mr. M.'s first visit to me, he appeared to be in a most desponding state. The mind had lost all hope, though he was of a sanguine temperament, and had a strong and quick pulse. His spirits were depressed beyond measure, the tongue was much furred, the bowels always costive without medicine, to which he was obliged to have recourse, in order to obtain any relief; his appetite was impaired, his complexion sallow, his skin parched, and perspiration checked; the urine was turbid, depositing a red sediment; in short, from the appearance of the contents of the bowels, with other secretions, there was every indication of a premature decay, and a speedy termination of his days. In his case I employed the galvanic influence, and the occasional aid of a little rhubarb and soda, and in the course of three weeks and three days the patient perfectly recovered. He regained his general health, was restored to his wonted flow of animal spirits, and acquired a greater degree of corporeal vigour than he had ever before experienced. Mr. M. has, ever since he attended me, enjoyed perfect uninterrupted health, and on the 19th of the present month, called on me to acknowledge personally the great benefit he has received, besides writing me the following letter, viz.

"Dear Sir, 19*th January*, 1824.

"I cannot help laying before you the particulars of the benefit I received from your treatment in galvanism. Having laboured under an inflammation in the chest, with a turbid liver, and all the symptons of debility attending such a case, I continued upwards of ten years without obtaining the slightest relief, though attended by a celebrated physician and an eminent surgeon, together with my own family apothecary. I am fully satisfied that these gentlemen did every thing in their power to afford me relief, though without effect. They recommended my travelling, for the benefit of difference of climate. I accordingly visited, I believe, all the watering places in England; but did not reap the smallest benefit. Having returned home in December, 1822, I was confined to my house for nearly three months, and after that time finding myself able to venture abroad, I dined with a friend in the Borough. A gentleman present, seeing my distressed situation, strongly recommended me to make trial of your mode of treatment, he having been perfectly restored to health from a similar disorder. On the 21st April, 1823, I waited on you, and you told me that mine was a case which you thought might be relieved by galvanism, and after being under your care to the 17th of May following, which was the last time you deemed necessary for me to attend you, I went to Brighton, where I remained for six weeks, and thanks to God and you, I am now able to undergo any fatigue, and am as well or better than I have been for the last twenty years.

"I beg to remain, your obedient servant,

"S. M."

CHILBLAINS.—To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.—Sir, Through the medium of your very valuable publication, I beg leave to recommend to the attention of the public, and especially the part engaged in the practice of medicine, the following composition, for the prevention and cure of chilblains, which I have found more efficacious than any other remedy:

Take of Citrine Ointment, three drachms;
Olive Oil, three ditto;
Rectified Oil of Turpentine, two ditto.

Mix them well together in a glass, or Wedgwood mortar. The parts affected should be well rubbed with it every night and morning, and afterwards covered with wash leather. If ulceration has taken place, it may be applied by means of lint.

I am, Sirs, your constant Reader,
J. P. R. CHIRO-MEDICUS.

Holborn, Dec. 18, 1823.

IODINE.—Mr. Harrison, of Newport, informs us, that he had administered the tincture of iodine, in the dose of 30 drops, twice a day, in a case of tumour, with complete success. The tumour had been of long standing, and at the time he commenced the use of this remedy, so compressed the windpipe, as to produce the most distressing sensation of suffocation. Mr. Delisser, of Judd-street, has communicated to the scientific Editor of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, a few cases of scrofula, in which the tincture of iodine proved successful. In one case, in a child of only three years of age, he gradually increased the dose till he arrived to seventy-five drops. The tincture was made in the proportion of one drachm of iodine to ten drachms of alcohol, which is considerably stronger than that which is generally sold by chemists. Of the true German iodine, ten drachms of alcohol will not hold more than two scruples in solution. Dr. Coindet recommends one drachm of iodine to be dissolved in twelve drachms of alcohol, and we are not aware of his having administered it beyond the dose of twenty-five drops three times a day. Mr. Delisser has added a case of scirrhus, in which he administered the iodine in substance, in conjunction with the extract of hemlock. He commenced with a grain, and increased it very gradually till he arrived to 30 grains in the course of 24 hours. It manifested no beneficial effect on the disease, and, we suspect, far from a good one on the stomach or general health. Dr. Duncan, junior, very properly cautions his readers against the exhibition of iodine in form of pills, on account of its insolubility in the contents of the stomach. We advise Mr. Delisser to proceed more cautiously in his further experiments, lest, by exhibiting it in too large a dose, he may bring a very valuable medicine into disrepute. Scrofula is a disease that is not to be soon reduced, or conquered by powerful attacks on it. The scrofulous diathesis of the system is only to be subdued by a continued use of mild doses, or in the same manner as mercury is employed by judicious practitioners in cases of organic disease. The anti-scrofulous property of iodine is fully established; but on some subjects, where the diathesis runs high, or where the disease has existed some time, its beneficial effect will not appear for many months, or even years, and if large doses be administered, for that time, it may produce organic disease in the coats of the stomach.

FLUKE, &c. IN SHEEP.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

SIRS, In no species of the brute creation, are the parasytic animals termed flukes and hydatids more perfect and more common than in sheep, and I am disposed to believe, from long observation, that nothing favours their production, more than long continued wet weather and a marshy soil.—The effect of food overcharged with water, either by soil or rain, on sheep, is generally an overloaded state of the whole cellular substance of the body, especially that of the liver, lungs, spleen, &c., and if articles be given them, that will increase the secretion of urine, such accumulation as well as production of flukes and hydatids, would be effectually prevented. With this view, I have, for some time, given the sheep I have kept on a marshy soil, a composition of fir tops (finely cut with a little hay), bran, and salt, once or twice a day, in the following proportions:—

Bran, six parts;
Fir Tops or Leaves, three parts;
Common Salt, one part.

The fir tops not only unload the system of superfluous water, by stimulating the kidneys, but are capable, like other articles that contain turpentine, of destroying worms, and of preventing parasytical productions in the liver, &c. The composition, by rendering them healthy, protects them against the vicissitudes of the weather, which are the cause of the inflammation of the liver and membranes of the chest and belly, that lay the foundation of what is termed the rot. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that when the disease has taken place, constituting rot, it is not within the aid of medicine, not only the membranes, but the viscera they cover, being in a sloughing state, attended with effusion of serum in the cavity, either of the chest or belly, in which it may have occurred. The learned Doctor Paris, who has published a work, entitled Pharmacologia, to instruct the profession to prescribe medicines, and treat diseases on *chemical* principles, represents the water trefoil to be capable of *curing* rot!! The good effects of this article, he attributes to its "bitter extractives," which, he says, act on the stomach, and do not enter the circulation.

A veterinary Surgeon, acquainted with the *nature* of the disease, would not trust to a remedy, whose action is confined to the stomach, although he may be as well acquainted with the importance of a good digestion, in all cases of organic lesion and local or general debility, as the learned Doctor himself. "Experience on *bitter* extractives," he says, "has proved that they are not absorbed into (conveyed to) the circulation." Thus, then, we are to suppose that opium, and the bitter extract of vegetable poisons, act only on the stomach!! The followers of *human medicines* may place implicit confidence in such *high authority*, but veterinary practitioners know how to estimate such theories. The Doctor "apprehends, his observations on *vegetable* bitter extractives, apply to the nitrate of silver, which certainly," says he, "possesses *considerable* powers as a *tonic* in *certain* cases of indigestion, for which it may be indebted to the *bitterness* which distinguishes it." This is indeed a most luminous idea.—That the peculiar effect of the nitrate of silver on the gustatory nerves is that of a bitter, I cannot admit; that it may, from its stimulating quality, (being a very powerful caustic)

prove serviceable in *certain* cases of indigestion, I will not deny, although I would not take such an article if I were affected with one of the *certain* cases of the malady, even under the superintendance of the great Doctor Paris himself; nor would I give it to a horse. The idea that its operation is confined to the stomach, betrays a great deficiency of that power of the mind, essential to a physician, termed, observation. To what, I beg to ask, are we to attribute the discoloration of the skin, which so frequently follows the exhibition of the nitrate of silver, if it does not enter the circulation, or as the Doctor observes, "absorbed into the circulation"? Well, well, Messrs. Editors, this I plainly see, that if the members of *human* medicine do not cordially unite to establish a rational system of medicine, and discard, with their prejudices, all the fanciful theories that have been lately broached, veterinary medicine, although a new creation, will very shortly have the start of them.

I am, Sirs,

Somer's Town, Your constant Reader and Friend,

Dec. 16, 1823. THOS. THOMAS, VETERINARY SURGEON.

CHEAP PORT WINE.—A lady having found some wine, she had purchased at a *cheap* shop, under the name of *Port* wine, to produce a very constipating effect on the bowels, sent us a bottle to analyze. On distilling eight ounces of it, we obtained nearly an ounce of alcohol, with an odour resembling logwood; by evaporating eight ounces, we obtained upwards of half an ounce of matter, of the consistence of common extract, which, on examination, chiefly consisted of extract of logwood, alum, and sugar. The liquor left in the retort after distillation, contained sulphuric acid, vegetable acids, which appeared to be tartaric, and the malic. The following composition resembled it in taste so nearly, that we could not distinguish one from the other:

Spirit of Wine, three ounces;
Cyder, fourteen ounces;
Sugar, one ounce and a half;
Alum, two scruples;
Tartaric Acid, one scruple;
Strong Decoction of Logwood, four ounces.

The lady states, that she has always preferred new to old Port wine, because it never confined her bowels; but the *new* Port wine of her *new* wine merchant had had a very opposite effect. The composition accounts for its constipating effects.—Since we analyzed the bottle noticed above, we have received bottles of wine from different quarters to examine, the results of which we will give in our next Number.

TREAD-MILL.—The attention of the public has been strongly attracted to the recent introduction of the tread-mill, as an instrument of prison discipline. Contradictory opinions are entertained on the utility of this invention, and the controversy has given rise to pamphlets and newspaper articles, in which the opponents of the new system appear more anxious to inflame the passion than influence the judgment of the public. The question is of extreme importance, and merits an impartial and dispassionate investigation.

In the earlier periods of society, when the true principles of government were imperfectly understood, legislation was established on irrational and sanguinary grounds, and punishments were unnecessarily harsh

and vindictive. The "lex talionis" corresponded with the barbarous notions of an uncivilized age; an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, appeared the perfection of human justice, and this horrid propensity to spilling human blood was fatally encouraged by the fanatical zeal of catholic superstition. The ingenious modes of torture inflicted by the ministers of religion, the rack, the wheel, the pincers, the public burnings and impalements of heretics, tended to cherish a ferocious and blood thirsty disposition among the people, and an ignorant and credulous multitude hoped to recommend themselves to a God of ineffable benevolence, by attending at the crucifixion and murders of their fellow creatures. These scenes of cruelty were not confined to the continent. England, at present the seat of philanthropy, was disgraced by intolerance and persecution.

"The accomplished and sentimental Sir Thomas More, caused Lutherans to be whipped, tortured, and burnt alive in his presence. Cranmer led Arians and Anabaptists to the stake. Bonner, bishop of London, tore off the beard of a weaver, who refused to relinquish his tenets: in another instance of the same kind, he scourged a man till his arm ached with the exercise, and held the hand of a third to a candle, to give him a specimen of burning, till the sinews and veins shrunk and burst. Even Wriothesly, the chancellor of England, directed a young and beautiful woman to be stretched on the rack, for having differed with him on the real presence; with his own hand he tore her body almost asunder, and caused her afterwards to be committed to the flames. In fine, *infants born at the stake*, were thrown into the fire with their parents, as partaking of the same heresy." Eden's Principles of Penal Law.

After the successful establishment of the reformed religion, a spirit of inquiry arose, and though at first confined to theological disputes, it progressively extended itself to subjects of general interest. The diffusion of knowledge, and the cultivation of the fine arts softened down the asperities of human nature, and christianity, exhibited in its true light, taught mankind to indulge in feelings of benevolence and compassion. Penal jurisprudence became a subject of general interest, the severity of the criminal code was reprobated by the most profound philosophers, and the most enlightened statesmen. An unfortunate hatred of experiment, and a bigoted attachment to antiquity, (feelings, which even in modern days are far from being extinguished,) retarded the wishes of humanity. The force of truth at length prevailed, and the outcry against innovation ceased. The illustrious Montesquieu, in his celebrated "Spirit of Laws," argues in the strongest terms against the severity of punishment, as not only repugnant to christianity, but at variance with sound policy. This opinion is fully justified by experience, especially in England; for when the punishment is disproportioned to the crime, offenders escape with impunity, because persons injured will not prosecute—witnesses will not attend—juries will not convict, and judges cannot condemn. The Marquis of Beccaria, whose admirable work on Penal Jurisprudence is too well estimated to require any commendation here, proposed *the total abolition of capital punishment in all cases whatsoever*. His treatise made a powerful impression, and the grand Duke Leopold of Tuscany embraced his opinions, and

abolished the punishment of death through the whole of his Florentine dominions. The Empress Catherine of Russia, followed his example, and capital punishment was put an end to by public proclamation throughout the whole of her extensive empire. The main principle on which Beccaria builds his system is, that *crimes are more effectually prevented by the certainty, than the severity of punishment.*

Foreigners have reproached our lawgivers, with treading in the footsteps of Draco, and the sanguinary laws which disgraced our statute book, afforded just grounds for this cruel imputation. In 1811, Sir John Anstruther, in the House of Commons, stated, "among the various actions that men are daily liable to commit, no less than two hundred have been declared by act parliament to be felonies without benefit of clergy, or in other words, to be worthy of instant death. When we inquire into the crimes of which this dreadful catalogue is composed, we shall find it to contain transgressions which scarcely deserve corporeal punishment; we shall find it to omit atrocious enormities, and so to blend all distinctions of guilt, as to inflict the same punishment upon the offender who steals to the amount of a few shillings in a shop, as upon the malefactor who murders his father."

The severity of our criminal law, its inconsistencies and inequalities, are more strikingly displayed in Mr. Roscoe's work on Penal Jurisprudence. "To commit a murder, or to free a person from arrest; to burn a dwelling house and its inhabitants, or to burn a haystack; to commit a parricide, or to obstruct an officer of the revenue in the seizure of prohibited goods; to break into a dwelling house at midnight, or to cut down or otherwise destroy a tree in a garden; to poison a family, or to maim a cow," all these offences are equally punishable with death.

These general observations on criminal law, appeared to us appropriately to precede the question of the tread-mill, as an instrument of prison discipline, in order to facilitate a knowledge of any particular branch of a system, it is necessary to acquire a comprehensive view of the general principles. By neglecting this golden rule, opinions are formed on insufficient data, and points which, when considered by themselves, seem clear and indisputable, on a more enlarged scale of reasoning, appear groundless and absurd. The writers on penal jurisprudence, who condemn the severity of the criminal code, universally lay it down as an axiom, that punishment is inflicted for the *prevention of crime.* By this must be understood, that all punishment is an evil, and is not to be considered as the retribution of any quantity of pain, for this would be vindictive, but as the means of deterring, by example, from the perpetration of crime. Hence it follows, that the grand desideratum is the *prevention of crime.* When the Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline was instituted, they bore this in mind, and very properly endeavoured to make a prison a school of reform. In order to accomplish this end, a judicious classification was adopted; the men were separated from the women, the juvenile offender from the hardened and experienced thief; some were instructed in trade, to enable them to gain subsistence, when the period of confinement expired; they were impressed with the duties of morality and religion, and habits of industry were promoted.

The conductors of this philanthropic institution, are entitled to the

thanks of every friend of humanity; but it is to be regretted, that the advantages to be expected from this scheme of prison discipline, are in danger of being neutralized by the ridiculous, extravagant, and impolitic conduct of a body of individuals, who aspire to peculiar sanctity, arrogate to themselves exclusive benevolence, and regard the rest of mankind as "unclean publicans, not fit to untie the latchet of their shoes." Under the management of this class of philanthropists, gaols were converted into habitations of comparative ease and enjoyment; prisons were deprived of their terrors, and comforts were procured within the walls of a dungeon which the honest and industrious labourer toiled in vain to procure. Under this system, the grand object of prison discipline, the reformation of offenders, was defeated; instead of suffering privation, they participated in advantages to which they had, before incarceration, been strangers, and the lazy and indolent quitted their confinement with regret. When the tread-mill was introduced, it was hoped that by inspiring a salutary terror, and producing a justifiable portion of bodily suffering, delinquents would feel no inclination to pay a second visit to the establishment. This has been the case at Brixton in particular, where the new instrument has been attended with decided success. But the *Saints* inveigh most bitterly against the cruelty of this modern torture, and appear horrified at a practice, which militates against their peculiar notions of humanity. Sir John Coxe Hippesley and Dr. Mason Goode have most imprudently joined in this idle clamour, and given their aid to the wild ravings of fanaticism. These gentlemen tell us that the tread-mill is injurious to health, and discourse most pathetically on "torturous attitudes," "mounting the endless hill of a mighty cylinder," and on the imminent danger of breaking "the achilles tendon, and forming aneurismal and varicose swellings in the legs." It is quite lamentable to see men of talent and respectability courting popularity, by affecting to feel sympathy for sufferings which never existed, and pouring forth the tenderness of their hearts at "pangs, and sighs, and dolours" which have never been experienced. Surgeon Hutchinson of Southwell, has satisfactorily proved, that the labour of the tread-mill is beneficial to health, and from a most accurate and minute examination of fifty individuals confined in the Nottinghamshire House of Correction, he states that they unanimously declared that the fatigue was not excessive, and not more painful than the sensations "of a common soldier at drill, a mechanic at his shop, or a labourer in his barn." Mr. H. observes, page 50, of his pamphlet, "that the average number of prisoners daily confined for the last year, commencing 25th June, 1822, and ending 24th June, 1823, both of the above dates inclusive, amounted to 81$\frac{4}{5}$; the number on the sick list, at this time, is fourteen; many of these are cases of minor importance, and not one of them depending either on the effects of the tread-mill, or on incarceration." The recent report of the Surrey magistrates is an additional proof of the efficacy of the punishment, and also of its being in no respect destructive of health.

In a future communication, this important subject shall be more fully discussed.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 99.] To MARCH 1, 1824. [Vol. IX.

OF THE LATE Mr. EDWARD GRAINGER,

Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; Lecturer on Anatomy; &c. &c. &c.

This highly esteemed professor of anatomy and surgery, and most excellent man, lately fell a sacrifice to pulmonary consumption; a disease, termed by some Continental writers the English malady, and which, notwithstanding the boast of the College of Physicians, of the rapid progress of the science of medicine, and the discovery of more appropriate remedies for disease, continues as much the *opprobrium medicorum* as it was in the time of Hippocrates.

Mr. Edward Grainger was the son of Mr. Grainger, a respectable surgeon of Birmingham. After receiving a classical education, his father took him as an apprentice, for six years, during which period he applied his mind to the study of the different branches of medicine with great ardour, and paid that attention to his father's patients (with the view of reporting the effects of the remedies, and of obtaining that practical knowledge, which is not to be acquired either by reading, or attending lectures of the most eminent physicians), which procured for him the high respect of all his father's connexion. Soon after the expiration of the term of his servitude, he repaired to London, to attend the practice of the hospitals and lectures on the different departments of medicine, and, on the recommendation of his father, became a pupil of St. Thomas's and Guy's Hospitals. Here he prosecuted his studies with the same diligence as when under the roof of his father. To the cases of any interest at the hospitals he paid particular attention; and the ability with which he often argued on philosophical subjects, connected with medicine, at the Medical Societies, secured for him the esteem and respect of all the lecturers and medical officers of the hospitals.

Having completed his professional education, he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, with the intention of settling in Birmingham. Sir Astley Cooper entertaining a very high opinion of his abilities, both as an anatomist and a surgeon, recommended him to establish a medical school in Birmingham, and to give lectures, particularly on anatomy and surgery, and offered to deliver the introductory lecture for him. Mr. Grainger, feeling himself competent to discharge the duties of a teacher, and supposing that he might not succeed in a place where a strong prejudice existed against dissections of human bodies, resolved to give lectures on anatomy in the vicinity of the Borough Hospitals; and such was the success he experienced, from the most intelligent pupils of the hospitals, that, in the short space of three years, he had the satisfaction

to find himself surrounded by as many pupils as any lecturer in London. His general health, for many years, was far from being good; probably in consequence of the time he devoted to philosophical researches. At length symptoms of pulmonic disease came on, which, although he attended to them on their first appearance, the disease advanced in the lungs, and in a few weeks terminated his valuable life, in about the twenty-sixth year of his age, to the great regret of all his pupils, and many eminent surgeons of the metropolis, who had entertained an idea that he was destined to give a scientific character to the Borough school of medicine. His pupils, we are glad to find, have resolved to evince their respect for his memory, and for departed worth; for he was not only a great anatomist, physiologist, and surgeon, but also an honest man—"the noblest work of God." He most heartily despised the little arts so generally practised by lecturers, and hospital surgeons, to gain the friendship and good opinion of their pupils; and to the credit of his pupils be it said, they were capable of distinguishing the dignity and solidity of science from the pomposity and impudence of ignorance, and real from pretended or interested friendship.

It has been said, by many writers, that no disease is more easily cured than pulmonary consumption, in its first stage, and we have been of this opinion; but if so, is it not strange that a medical man, who is acquainted with what may be termed premonitory symptoms of the disease, should allow it to advance to an incurable stage in his own person? Many eminent practitioners have died of this disease, and also the children of medical men, who were living with their parents. Dr. Babington, who is justly considered an able physician, lately lost a son of the disease, although he paid particular attention to it on its onset, and received him into his house, that he might watch the progress of the malady, and promptly employ the remedy any fresh symptom might indicate. What then is this organic disease of the lungs, which is not to be checked by the most skilful practitioner, even when it occurs in his own person? The lungs of those who have died of the disease uniformly exhibit those little tumours, more or less in clusters, termed tubercles. Different species of consumption have been noticed by writers from other causes; but the tubercular species is the common consumption of this country: indeed we are inclined to believe that the true pulmonary consumption arises only from tubercles. Tubercles are not suppurated or diseased glands, as some practitioners suppose; but deposits of coagulable lymph, or febrine of the blood, into the cellular substance of the lungs which unites the air cells. On examining the lungs of a person who has died of pulmonary consumption, those deposits are found in different states, in consequence of one lung being generally less diseased than the other. The recently formed tubercles are sometimes less than the head of a pin; and those which have attained maturity are often as large as a pea. The cellular substance, immediately surrounding a tubercle, is generally so condensed, as to exhibit the appearance of a cyst. We have, for many years, entertained the idea, that tubercles, like hydatids and schirrhi, &c., possess an independent life. That the coagulable

lymph (which, on separating from the blood recently taken from a vein or artery, exhibits, on application of electric sparks, a contractile power) soon takes upon itself a vitality different to that of the body; that they will only exist a limited period of two or three years; and that their vitality, like other parasites, is readily destroyed by inflammatory action or increased temperature. That they exist two or three years, without producing any inconvenience to the patient, is well known. When their vitality ceases, they decompose and putrefy; and in this state the surrounding membrane inflames, and advances to ulceration, so as to admit of the putrefied parts of the dead tubercles to escape into the air cells, or vessels, from whence it is brought up by coughing, enveloped in phlegm, thrown out by the irritated membrane lining the air cells and bronchial ramifications. That putrid matter is brought up by consumptive patients, is a fact well known to them, both from taste and smell.

It appears probable, that all encysted tumours and excrescences, and even thickening of membranes, termed strictures, and certain phagedenic ulcers also, sooner or later take upon themselves an independent vitality, and that it is often destroyed by increased temperature of the body; for it is common for tumours to decompose, and excrescences, as warts, to disappear, after a fever. This idea is, at any rate, as feasible, if not more so, as that of Hunter, of the independent vitality of the blood. The hydatid in the human subject is very far from being so perfect an animal as that in the sheep, and the human tubercle being as perfect an animal as the human hydatid; if one may be called an independent life, the other may also. If therefore the tubercles which form in the lungs possess an independent life, and have only a limited period of existence, we may account for the disease that occurs in the lungs, in consequence of their death and decomposition, proving fatal.

If the encysted tumours be not also parasites, how are we to account for one weighing thirty pounds having been nourished by an artery of the size of a small pin, the branches of which were to be traced only a little way on the surface of the cyst, and not at all into the substance of the tumour? That the cancerous tumour is a parasite, we believe, is admitted by every surgeon of experience and observation. That equivocal generation of parasites takes place in the human body, is also an admitted fact; and whoever considers that febrine, or coagulable lymph, on spontaneous separation of the blood, contracts on being stimulated, and the germ in embryo being, in the first instance, mere febrine, will be disposed to think with us, that deposits of febrine, or coagulable lymph, in cells of the lungs, may become parasitical animals. The cavities left in the lungs, after the decomposed tubercles or clusters of them have been thrown off, favour this idea; for the disease does not extend beyond the condensed cellular substance which surrounded them. Dr. Laennec asserts, that he has found the cavities, after the separation of tubercles, to unite, and the patients to recover. This interesting subject we shall more particularly discuss, when we notice the second edition of Mr. Farr's Treatise on Scrofula and Cancer, in our next number.

LONDON PHARMACOPŒIA.—About fifteen years ago, the Royal College of Physicians of London published a new Pharmacopœia. The work was announced four months before it appeared; and some of the fellows of the College, who had taken a part in it, had spoken of their labours in such extravagant terms of commendation, that the whole profession were, for some weeks, kept in anxious expectation of its appearance.

After three months of most anxious suspense, the Pharmacopœia, and the translation of it by one of the fellows, appeared on the *same* day, giving the unfavourable idea, that a contract existed between the publishers and the translator, that the publication of the College work, which is always in Latin, should be suspended until the translation was printed, thereby preventing competition. All we shall say on this subject is, if the contract was sanctioned by the College, it was highly discreditable to them. The production of the curious twins, the *Roman* and *English* Pharmacopœias, was somewhat like that of the mountain, which, after making much noise, brought forth a mouse. Chemists of respectability, in opposition to the Roman or catholic spirit of the college, dared to comment on the *scientific* parts of the work; and the exposure of chemical errors continuing to increase, and to become the subject of severe criticism in all the philosophical journals of Europe, the College, after standing the castigation of the press about nine years (a proof certainly of great philosophy) condescended to publish a *new* edition of the work, in order to correct their errors; the old edition, we suppose, having been sold, or the term of the contract transpired.

A short time previously to the publication of the first edition, according to college custom, the President (Dr. Latham) presented a humble petition to His Majesty's Privy Council, setting forth that the said President and College had, with *great care, pains, and industry*, revised, corrected, and reformed a book, by them formerly published, entitled "Pharmacopœia Collegii Regalis Medicorum Londinensis;" in consequence of which, His Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council, issued an order to compel "all and *singular* apothecaries, and *others*, whose business it is to compound medicines, distil oils, &c. &c., within his dominions, that they, and every of them, *immediately* after the said Pharmacopœia shall be printed and published, do not compound, or make any medicine, or *medical receipt* or *prescription*, or distil any oil or waters, or make other extracts, that are or *shall be* in the said Pharmacopœia mentioned or named, in any other manner or form than is or shall be directed, prescribed, or set down by the said book, and according to the weights and measures that are or shall be therein limited, except it shall be by the special direction or prescription of some *learned* physician in that behalf; and His Majesty thereby declares, that the *offenders* to the contrary shall not only incur His Majesty's JUST displeasure, but be proceeded against for such *their contempt* and *offences*, according to the utmost severity of the law." The wholesale chemists and the apothecaries, unwilling to run the risk of incurring his Majesty's *just* displeasure; and indeed, out of respect to His Majesty, and the members of his Privy Council, determined

most conscientiously to follow the directions given in the said "*perfected* and *reformed Pharmacopœia;*" but, to their astonishment, many of the articles which were produced, were not such as the College had stated would be the results!! The product of the process for making the tartarized antimony, was not tartarized antimony, and possessed no emetic quality!! That for making the carbonate of magnesia, produced *sub*-carbonate; that for carbonate of ammonia, was the subcarbonate: but although errors of this kind were numerous, we have not heard of a chemist or apothecary having incurred His Majesty's *just* displeasure, or of being prosecuted to the utmost rigour of the law, for not having made articles according to the directions of the College, which the College themselves, notwithstanding the advantages of a knowledge of Greek and Latin they possess, could not make by following the same instructions!! His Majesty and his Privy Council, after being induced to issue such an order, on the representation of the College, we think should have paused before they issued a similar one, previous to the publication of the present new Pharmacopœia. For the revised edition, which was published in 1815, although many of the receipts were altered, the College did not venture to present another humble petitition to His Majesty and his Privy Council, for their *usual* notification. As to the translation of the Pharmacopœia of 1809, by Dr. Powel, which was published in the same day as the College edition, it only contained ninety errors; one of which, if apothecaries had not been acquainted with the doses of the article, might have produced fatal effects. If the translation of the Pharmacopœia, by the member of the College they appoint, as a compliment, or means of remuneration, for the active part he had taken in the work, were correctly executed, it would be some excuse for suspending the publication of the Latin edition; but the translations by others have been much more correct, and the practical pharmacological remarks much more valuable.*

The College, in their wisdom, have thought proper to publish two sizes of their new Pharmacopœia (which, unlike the former, has suddenly appeared among us,) for the accommodation of the rich and poor classes of the profession. This is indeed being very considerate. On the large size (8vo.) they have put the moderate price of 8*s*., and on the small size (18mo.) 4*s*. The paper and printing of the former cost about 2*s*., and that of the latter about 9*d*.!! This is certainly acting conformably to one of the duties imposed on them by their charter; viz. to promote the science of medicine, for the good of his Majesty's liege subjects. There is not a College of Physicians in Europe that derives a profit from the publication of a Pharmacopœia; but in consequence of the numbers of the work they distribute gratuitously among their members and the profession, some are considerable losers by it; and we may say, that there is not a government in Europe, besides that of England,

* We are happy to find, that a Scotch Physician, of London, has published a cheap and correct Translation of the new Pharmacopœia, with valuable practical notes.

that would allow a College to derive such an extravagant profit from the sale of a work, for the observance of which they issue a compulsory order. Indeed, the Pharmacopœias of all the Colleges in Europe are official publications, and in some countries are distributed gratuitously, and in others at the paper and print cost. A college so handsomely endowed as that of the Royal College of Physicians of London, by the liberal legacies and donations of men, who were desirous to promote medical science, for the benefit of their fellow creatures, cannot be under the necessity of looking to their Pharmacopœia as a source of wealth. One would, indeed, suppose that the sums they receive for licences alone, must be equal to their expenditure. We hope Parliament will institute an enquiry into the income of this body, and the purposes to which it is applied, and also how far they have complied with the conditions of their charter. To the division of the Pharmacopœia, termed *materia medica*, they have added about fourteen articles, and expunged two. By introducing the acetic acid, *distilled* from wood, instead of that from vinegar, it appears, that the College suppose that there is no difference between the pure pyroligneous acid and the pure vinegar acid. Apothecaries who have made Mindererus's spirit with the pyroligneous acid instead of distilled vinegar, say, that the articles materially differ from each other, the one keeping good a much longer time than the other; and that made with the pyroligneous acid certainly undergoes a slight decomposition in a few weeks, which is not the case when it is made with distilled vinegar. The pure pyroligneous acid is specifically lighter than the acetic acid, and its action in decomposing some compounds and on bones is much more rapid. The neutral salts made with the pyroligneous acid and the soda and potass, are more purgative than those made with the acetic acid; and pickles made with the diluted pyroligneous acid, not only do not keep so long as when made with the acetic acid of the same strength, but are apt to produce an aperient effect, and to disturb digestion instead of promoting it. As some chemists of respectability entertain doubts as to the identity of the acid obtained by distilling wood (the pyroligneous), and that by fermentation (vinegar), the College should not have hastily substituted one for the other. Although they have introduced the strong acetic acid, in the *materia medica*, they direct the diluted acetic acid to be made by distilling vinegar. Had they introduced the true acetic acid, or omitted the explanation opposite the name, "distilled from wood," and have given directions for diluting it, as they have done for the sulphuric acid, the dilute acetic acid would have been kept of a certain regular strength, which in the practice of medicine is of great importance. The strength of distilled vinegar will of course vary according to the strength of the vinegar from which it is distilled; but with respect to flavour, there is a great difference between that of distilled vinegar and of the acetic acid obtained by decomposing the acetate of soda or lime. In medicine there should be as little room left for doubt as possible, and accuracy particularly with respect to strength should be regarded.

The other new articles introduced into the *materia medica* divi-

sion are, bismuth, elecampane, cubebs, rhatany root, lettuce, black pitch, croton oil, stramonium, and subcarbonate of magnesia, with the properties of which our readers are well acquainted.

The division of the Pharmacopœia in this country termed *materia medica*, embraces what are called simples not prepared by the apothecary. This part of the new Pharmacopœia, and indeed of the former one, is the most heterogeneous composition, or "humble comjumble," we ever met with in the works either of regular or irregular quacks. Here are articles, for the making of which they have given directions in another division of their work, as, subcarbonate of magnesia, sulphate of potass, sulphate of soda, citric acid, &c. and others which apothecaries should make, inasmuch as they are not, as articles of commerce, to be obtained sufficiently pure for medicinal purposes; for instance, the verdigris of trade is made in this country with the blue vitriol, sugar of lead, and white arsenic; and surely such a composition is an improper one to use as a "sub-acetate of copper" in any preparation either for internal or external use. If the pure subacetate can be easily made, why insert the *impure* in the materia medica? The pure acetate and subacetate of copper, the pure sulphate and supersulphate of alumen, the pure sulphuric acid, the pure carbonate of zinc, the pure sulphate of copper, &c. &c., are made by chemists for analytical chemistry and philosophical experiments; and why should they not by apothecaries for medicinal purposes? Surely accuracy in preparation of remedies for diseases, is of as much importance as of re-agents for the use of philosophical chemists and experimentalists. Why not then give directions for making them (with which any chemist could furnish them), sooner than disgrace their materia medica with *impure* articles, or require apothecaries to make use of articles prepared for commerce, more indeed for the use of painters than medical practitioners? Why insert the sulphuric acid in the list of materia medica, and omit the other mineral acids? Why insert the citric acid, and omit the tartaric and other vegetable acids? Why insert the sulphates of potass and of soda, and nitrate of potass, and omit the muriate of soda, the muriate of lime, &c. &c.? Why insert the oil of cinnamon and oil of cloves, and omit the oil of pimento, the oil of caraway-seeds, the oil of aniseeds, &c.? Surely one is as easily made as the other; and it is of as much consequence in the treatment of disease that one should be as genuine as the other. In the materia medica department, we have no hesitation in saying the College have exhibited a censurable degree of inconsistency and whimsicality.

If we were to form a Pharmacopœia, we would give directions for making every salt, mineral and vegetable, with the pure alcalies. Instead of employing the impure subcarbonates of potass, &c. of the materia medica of the College, we would use pure potass and pure soda; in which case the proper chemical names might be adopted—as tartrite of soda, instead of the ridiculous one *tartarized* soda, &c. The College, in the names of their pharmaceutical articles, have omitted to specify either the species or part of the plant, of which they are preparations. This is in our opinion a very censurable

omission, because most of the English families on the continent have taken prescriptions of their medical friends in England with them; and what is a foreign apothecary to understand from Extract of Lettuce, or Extract of Aconite? The different species of these plants are employed abroad for the cure of different diseases; and if the intended one were not used, a most serious mischief might follow. If the extract of the *wild* lettuce, which is much prescribed on the continent, were to be used instead of the *garden* lettuce, the life of the patient would be endangered by it. The same may be said of the tinctures; they should not only have specified the species, but also the part of the plant,—as "Tinct. fol. Digitalis Purpureæ," instead of "Tinct. Digitalis."—"Sp. Seminum Colchici Ammoniatus," instead of "Sp. Colchici Ammoniatus." In the materia medica division, the College have omitted wine, although they have continued a list of preparations, in another department, under the head of *Wines!* They have, however, substituted diluted alcohol for wine. This is certainly a judicious substitution for the articles, when made with wine, were of different degrees of strength, and most of them were injured by warm weather; but after this alteration in the menstruum, surely the College should have changed the *names* of the preparations, which were derived from the menstruum. There is a great chemical difference between a dilute alcohol and a wine. The *liquor* of tartarized antimony of the Pharmacopœia of 1809, they now term the *wine* of tartarized antimony, because they have directed the tartarized antimony to be dissolved in a weak spirit, instead of wine!! Surely, surely, there is something rotten in the court of Warwick Lane. We were much surprised on finding that the College had not adopted the mode of making extracts by evaporation in vacuo, as recommended by Mr. Barry, which is perhaps one of the most important improvements that has been made in pharmaceutical chemistry, since the College obtained their charter from Henry VIII. Every apothecary knows, that the extracts made according to College instruction is much deteriorated, by the degree of heat which is necessary to reduce it to the consistence of an extract. As Dr. Paris has particularly noticed the superior quality of the extracts made by evaporation in vacuo, it is not a little surprising to us, that he had not sufficient influence in the College, to induce them to adopt Mr. Barry's instructions. The doctor, we understand, was out-argued by that brilliant member, Sir Geo. Tuthill, Knight. The plan not originating in either of the *celebrated* schools of medical *science* or *legitimate* medicine, Oxford or Cambridge, was certainly a plausible reason for rejecting it. For making the carbonates of soda and potass, the College have adopted the method of transmitting the carbonic acid through the solutions of the subcarbonates, which was employed when they were seldom used. As the consumption of these articles now amounts to tons in the course of a year, they ought to have stated the plan they have employed to saturate the solutions in quantity. The article thus made will, no doubt, be sweeter than those sold at Apothecaries' Hall; but if the plan be generally adopted, we doubt much if the articles will always be *carbonates.*—*(To be continued.)*

OPIUM.—*Dr. De Sanctis's Reply to Dr. Edwards*, (continued from folio 804.)—"*Narcotin*," says Dr. Edwards, "*is unquestionably a powerful poison; but its supposed primary stimulating action is of very short duration (often only half a minute), when, like morphia, it is followed by sleep, and debility of the vital powers!!*"

How dares Dr. Edwards term the stimulating action of *narcotin* "supposed," when it has been proved to be so by Derosne, who calmed the general irritation produced in dogs by that substance, though unknown to him at that epoch, with copious vinegar; when Dr. Majendie could only retard, by its strong stimulating action, the baneful effects of morphia, when injected into the veins of a dog; and when he could render supportable a much larger quantity of this powerful stimulus by vinegar? I am not disposed to give importance, much less to surrender to what he adds in confirmation of his assumption; viz. "*This fact Majendie and Orphila have noticed.*" Dr. Majendie, till yet, has asserted quite the contrary; and I do not know where Dr. Orphila may have proved it besides noticing, at least, in clear terms and with sound observations. If, however, more recent and more concordant observations of the formerly Parisian opponents should now unite against me, from the bedside of some imaginary patient, or from new injections into veins of some more brutes (which, in my humble opinion, is very far from the most correct way to judge of therapeutical actions), I beg to be allowed to oppose to their observations those of my own stomach, which, for a long time, I have subjected to rather bold doses of opium, and its more powerful real or pretended components, as well as to strong solutions of mineral acids, in any reciprocal combination of time of administering them, of relative doses, of union or succession of actions, &c.; a faithful follower of the example of my countrymen, Fontana and Valli, who, in the doubtful discussions of the viperine poison, and pestilential inoculation, did zealously show to the world that the only, or at least the shortest way to decide such questions is, to try the effects upon ourselves.

I do not know if the narcotin and morphia, of the various kinds of opiums, or of their different preparations, are equally powerful; for in opposing some of Dr. Edwards's principles, I do not intend to exclude the *probability* of his assertion, about narcotin and morphia being perhaps the products of art; and though not explicitly, I gave a tacit hint to this idea, by the very manner in which I did explain myself about the protei-form analysis of opium in my first article; but what I know is, that the action of morphia is more to be depended upon for its regular effect, than that of narcotin. The stimulating action, however, of narcotin, though more variable, is that of a strong diffusive stimulus, and that if it may, by chance, induce sleep, it has this quality in common with other strong diffusive stimulants, nay, even with wine and brandy. But the sleep produced by narcotin has a quite different character from the sleep produced by morphia. The sleep of the morphia comes on much sooner, after a preparatory gradually increasing torpor of the bodily as well as mental faculties, not preceded by the least appearance of

increased circulation. The pulse, on the contrary, becomes less full and slower; the sleep is heavy, and neither accompanied nor followed by light happy dreams, hot head, or slight head-ach, as the sleep of narcotin. After the sleep of narcotin, the person is quite restored; after the sleep of morphia, the person looks stupid, and feels colder and weaker than before. If a tumbler of cold water be rapidly drank, under the well-established action of narcotin (and the same may be said of the first stimulating action of opium), a succession of light shocks is felt within the head; nothing, however, of the kind occurs under the well-established action of morphia. And here I would invite Dr. Edwards to make some reflections on this phenomenon, which accords very well with the Hunterian observation on the action of cold on arteries, exposed to its immediate influence, and confirms the prudence of the custom amongst the inhabitants of warm climates, who, before drinking fresh spring waters when thirsty, after exertions, particularly in the summer season, have been taught, by experience, to plunge first their wrists into the water, and to bathe with them their temples; for it may give weight to some further observations on his eccentric sally of the action of cold, in our discussions of the action of opium, and its principles. But coming again to the sleep which they produce: does the sleep of morphia ever depend on a passive congestion of the sinuses and veins of the brain, and the sleep of narcotin on an accumulation of blood in the arteries of the same viscus? I confess I am at a loss to answer this question, although not new, since facts do not throw any light on the subject; and if we should reason, from the natural healthy sleep, it might be said that both kinds of artificial sleep are rather the effect of a want of nervous power in the organs of senses, where the soul feels, as Perrault did satisfactorily prove, only on the condition of a certain degree of its energy. But when should such a want be the effect of an absolute waste of the power? When the effect of a relative deficiency, on account of his accumulation somewhere else? And if, by chance, the deficiency should be the effect of a prevented renewal of the power, or of its prevented free circulation to the organs of senses, how shall we be able to detect it? Let us, however, leave these whimsical discussions, and return to examine again some anomalies of the action of opium, and its principles, and other analogous effects.

Solutions of opium have been applied to the exposed brain and spinal marrow of some brutes, and the action of the arterial system has diminished in frequency and strength soon afterwards. Opium and narcotin, taken an hour or two after dinner, generally commence their action, by diminishing the frequency of the pulse. A bit of roasted pork, a mutton chop, and many other innocent articles of food, have sometimes produced narcotic symptoms, and yet it is generally avowed that such food is stimulant. Children, who have swallowed berries of the deadly nightshade, were lately relieved by bleeding and purging. Italian soldiers, who mistook the leaves of young hemlock for a parsley, in the Bonapartean Spanish war, had all the symptoms of intoxication and phrenzy,

and were relieved by bleeding and vinegar; though it is asserted, the deadly nightshade and hemlock possess sedative powers. The smoke of tobacco, when conveyed to the stomach or intestines, depresses the vital powers; and when applied to the mouth and nostrils, it is a most exhilarating stimulus to the inhabitant of cold damp places, to the fatigued seaman on shore, and to the exhausted soldier. The inhalation of air is necessary to the support of human life; but if a very small quantity be received into a jugular vein, it may prove fatal. What stimulates one animal, sometimes contro-stimulates another. Wine, brandy, smoke of tobacco, &c., when taken in too great quantity, instead of stimulating, weaken the vital powers, and sometimes kill, without organic lesions. There is therefore, Dr. Edwards would say, no line of demarcation between the stimulating and the contro-stimulating forces; but they act on the same general principles, and do occasionally develop symptoms of one kind or other, according to individual circumstances, and the state of the *vis medicatrix naturæ*. Besides, look to the modifications induced in their action by the habit. The greatest poisons may become by it innocent substances. Look at the cold. *After an application of cold water* (to use the same words of Dr. Edwards) *to the system, the vital powers become increased, which has led some physicians, of contracted views, to deem cold water a stimulant; but if the cold be continued, no reaction will ensue; and if it be increased, the vital powers will gradually decline under it, till life ceases. Surely then it cannot be said that cold is either a direct or indirect stimulus.*

I am sure Dr. Edwards will be pleased with all these arguments. But unfortunately for him, my former ones are not more conclusive than his last. For if it has not been observed what did later happen in the experiments with opium on the brains of brutes, nothing may be concluded from the first sudden impressions: besides, the brain is not the stomach; and I would never allow too great importance to observations, where the effects of opium must necessarily be modified by the condition of the injured part. Meanwhile I know very well that the first apparently depressing action of opium and narcotin, after dinner, did soon subside in my pulse, and that all the marks of a well-decided and permanent state of stimulus did afterwards sooner than ever display their power on the stomach, and particularly on the heart and brain, as assisted by the new mass of chyle successively entering the torrent of the sanguiferous circulation. I know very well that the narcotic symptoms occasionally arising after eating roasted pork or a mutton-chop, are the same as those of a fainting arising at empty stomach, and that there was never a more fallacious argument in medicine, than the "post hoc, ergo propter hoc." I know very well that the berries of the deadly nightshade are not the leaves, and that the juice of young hemlock is not the juice of the ripe plant; and it might well be that something like narcotin might predominate in the former, and something like morphia in the last. I shall not speak of the effect of the air when inhaled or received in the veins, and other analogous facts; I shall not speak of the fatal results of the abuse of stimulants; of

the effects of the habit; of the anomalies of action of the same substances in different animals, because it would lead me too much out of the question. But respecting cold, I shall say that it must certainly be considered quite the reverse of a direct stimulus by its nature, as being but a diminution of that molecular agitatory movement of our organs, which constitutes their temperature; but in the human body we must look to the ensemble of its functions, and it might be that such a superficial diminution, under certain limits of degree, extent and duration, should afford new internal conditions in the functions of the sanguiferous circulation and of the nervous system, from which an addition might result to the general sum of the vital momenta. There is a degree of cold which since Monnier's time favours the intensity and the duration of a charge in a Leyden jar, as there is a degree of warmth which is inimical to the concentration of the electrical and magnetic vortices. And what is the living body throughout its vases and fibres, but a congeries of analogous vortices? Man is but a vortex, observed a friend by way of a joke; but I hope soon to prove that he is really so, either considered in a moral or in a physical point of view. Cold then might act occasionally as an *indirect* stimulus, and so it does on healthy people in dry weather. This has been known not only to philosophers, but even to common people, long before Dr. W. Philips's assertion in the twelfth volume of the Annals of Philosophy; and what he has farther said of other substances too, in his last Memoir on the Circulation—viz. that according to the dose they may act either as stimulants or as sedative, has been too since long a matter of observation: but it is time to reckon clearly and explicitly the great principle, that there is not any thing like a general absolute stimulus; not any thing like a general absolute contro-stimulus; that there are only certain relations between the living bodies and the substances moving round or within them, by which certain living surfaces more than certain others, of some animals more than of others, when acted upon by certain substances, not only in such and such doses, but in such and such state of the body, under such and such state of cohesion, for such and such quantity of time, for such and such number of times, combined with or preceded or followed by such and such auxiliary substances, are brought to produce such immediate or mediate movements or succession of movements, of such and such nature, degree, duration, &c.; or to retard or diminish, and even paralyze such and such of the ordinary movements of our system, either directly, or after a temporary (more or less long) series of the former effects, or even before them, as is sometimes the case with the lancet too. Therefore nothing is more true than to say, in the most general sense, that any stimulus might be a relative contro-stimulus, and vice versâ.—*(To be continued.)*

B. De Sanctis.

ANALYSIS.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*—Sirs, Some of your subscribers have been much amused on reading the letter from Paris, inserted in your last number. As Dr. De Sanctis may perhaps think it unworthy of his notice, an observation or two on it may not be unacceptable to your readers. Dr. Edwards may

be a great Physician, for ought I know; but that he is not a great Chemist, his letter sufficiently evinces. "Analysis," says he, "seems to be perfected, and we have only to study synthesis to make the precious metals." I much wish to know upon what authority he conceives the precious metals to be compound substances. Most of the chemists of the day consider them as simples or not compounds. Should he mean that they exist under other forms, as the diamond in the form of charcoal, I wish to know what are these other forms. In another place Dr. Edwards says, "In spontaneous decompositions, we find products which did not exist in the article. During the spontaneous fermentation of the juice of the grape, we find a considerable quantity of charcoal is produced, which escaped with oxygen, forming carbonic acid gas; and certainly you will allow, that carbon did not previously exist in the grape." Charcoal not exist in the grape, and yet exist in carbonic acid! This is profound chemical knowledge certainly. Now every chemist's boy, who is capable of eating a raisin, knows that more than a third of its weight is charcoal. Sugar, the chief article in the grape, consists of, in the 100 parts,

Oxygen	53,33 parts
Charcoal.....	39,99
Hydrogen	6,66

"The metals," says Dr. E. "Sir Humphry Davy has discovered in the vegetable alkalies, are, I conceive, new products; that is, they did not exist in the vegetables from which the alkali was obtained." The result of Sir H. Davy's discoveries is, that the metals actually exist in the vegetables in a state of oxyde; which is proved by exposing them to the air, as they attract oxygen so quickly, as almost instantly to return to the state in which they exist in nature. In one of the last publications of the Royal Society, a learned gentleman gives the result of his analysis of eggs, during different stages of incubation. Not being able to discover the source of the lime in the bones of the chick, he concludes, if I remember right, nearly in the following words: "In the present state of our knowledge, we know not but that the formation of lime may come within the capabilities of the vital energies." Now I look upon such admission as a very weak attempt to get over a difficulty. We have every reason for believing, that, where no lime is taken with the food, none will ever be found in the bones. I am yours, &c. &c.

Pendleton, Dec. 19, 1823. B. Goulson.

COUGH.—M. Condet, a German surgeon, has published a case of cough in a man aged 46, which had existed four years without being materially relieved by the usual remedies of blisters, anodynes, expectorants, &c. &c. The patient having always stated that the irritation was seated in the upper part of the windpipe and fauces, M. Condet inspected the fauces; and discovering them to be slightly inflamed, and the uvula elongated and apparently much swelled, he proposed to remove a portion of the latter. The patient being convinced that it was the cause of his cough, willingly consented, and the surgeon immediately cut off, by means of a curved scissars, one half of the uvula. The part continued to bleed for

some hours. The following night the patient slept soundly, and has ever since continued free from cough, and the distressing irritation which had existed so long at the top of the windpipe. Some months ago we met with a case of short cough in a young man, which subsided in a few days after using a gargle of infusion of roses with tincture of kino. The cough had been very troublesome for three weeks, notwithstanding blisters had been applied over the windpipe and breast-bone, blood taken from between the shoulders by cupping, and anodyne pectoral medicines had been administered. The patient complaining of pain on swallowing, induced us to prescribe an astringent gargle. On experiencing a recurrence of cough, he has recourse to the same gargle, which always succeeds in curing it in two days. The irritation in the wind-pipe in that case, as well as in the former, was an extension of that which existed in the fauces, and on removing the primary affection, the branch of it to the windpipe soon subsided. In a case of chronic cough, in an elderly person, who had been declared by his professional friend to be in the last stage of pulmonary consumption, the following mixture, in the dose of three table-spoonsful three times a day, succeeded in restoring the patient to a state of health.—

Take of Infusion of Buchu Leaves, seven ounces;
Oxymel of Hedge Hyssop, one ounce.—Mix.

For the chronic cough of elderly people, this is no doubt a most valuable composition.

Doctor Paris, who has made a humorous attempt to explain the *modus operandi* of the class of medicines termed expectorants, which we intend to notice in an early number, observes, that when oxymel of squills is "allowed to pass slowly over the fauces, as when applied in the form of a linctus, which by stimulating the *top* of the windpipe, may possibly act by a KIND of *contiguous sympathy* upon the *pulmonary* STRUCTURE, and thereby increase the *activity* of the exhalent vessels, and so *dilute* the mucus contained in the follicles, as to cause it to be *poured out* in a less viscid form, and consequently in a state more easily brought up by expectoration." If the effect of squills in promoting expectoration, arises chiefly from "its contiguous sympathy," in consequence of "its being allowed to pass *slowly* over the fauces;" how does it happen that the powdered dried root, in the form of pill, produces the same effect, although swallowed rapidly, and even when covered with silver leaf, so as to prevent its coming in contact with the fauces, or internal surface of the œsophagus? Dr. Chapman has very justly observed, that when a man attempts to explain the *modus operandi* of medicine, in our present state of knowledge of the vital functions, and what may be termed vital chemistry of the machine, we may put him down as a bold empiric, or one whose object is to make a bold attack on practice; but as Dr. Paris is a member of that body of physicians, who, by virtue of their "profound learning and skill," are competent to the treatment of the most difficult cases of disease, the observation of course does not apply to him.

GALVANISM.—The following cases, communicated by Mr. La Beaume, illustrative of the effects of the galvanic fluid, in invi-

gorating the vital powers, were omitted in our last number for want of room.

"On the 22d of August, 1821, Miss C. residing in Westminster, called to consult me on her case, which was one of a singular description. The lady was about thirty years of age, of a sallow complexion; tall, thin, and much emaciated; and appeared to have suffered long from constitutional disease, and was unable to articulate a single word but in a whisper. The account the patient gave of herself was, that she had been labouring under a liver and bowel complaint for ten years past; and that for four years of the time she had lost her voice, and was not able to speak louder than a whisper. In order to the recovery of her general health and vocal powers, she, being a lady of fortune, had recourse to the advice of the most eminent medical men, who employed various internal and external means, as general and local remedies, without obtaining the desired effect. She was therefore, by the suggestion of some friends, induced to apply to me for aid. On the first visit, I found the pulse extremely low and slow; the tongue much furred; the stomach greatly deranged, by the presence of many dispeptic symptoms, as acidity, flatulence, &c.; the liver in a state of great torpor; the bowels highly constipated; in short, the general health was greatly impaired. Being fully satisfied that the loss of voice was the result of this lady's bad state of health, my object was to restore the digestive functions, which I accomplished in about a month, by the application of the galvanism, and a few doses of very mild aperients. At the expiration of that time, my patient lost all sallowness of complexion; the tongue and pulse indicated her recovery; the stomach digested the ordinary food; the liver secreted healthy bile; the bowels daily did their office; and her appetite, strength, and spirits returned. I then employed electrical insulation and current, in the course of the recurrent nerves, for five times: the patient suddenly recovered her voice. I requested her to persevere a few days longer; but being obliged to defer her visit for two or three days, she relapsed into her former state. But after three more applications, she again perfectly recovered her voice. I am now happy to state that, in reply to a very recent enquiry as to her health, she has favoured me with an answer, of the 14th of this month, stating, that since her attendance on me, her general health has been perfectly good, and that she has never lost her voice since she regained it the second time, imputing the recovery of her health and voice altogether to the means employed under my plan of treatment, as will appear from her letter, of which the following is a copy: viz.

"'Sir,—In answer to your polite enquiries concerning my health, I have the pleasure of informing you, that it has been perfectly good during the last two years; and that I have never, for a single hour, lost my voice since I recovered it by electricity. I have often wished to call in Southampton Row, for the purpose of expressing, in person, my grateful sense of the permanent benefit I derived under your treatment of my previously obstinate disorder, and I

rejoice in finding this opportunity of accounting for what may have seemed a very blameable neglect on my part.

" ' Immediately after being electrified the last time, I set out for the country, where I expected to remain about ten days, but where (from several unforeseen circumstances) I was detained many months: and, upon returning to town, I was deterred from waiting on you, by the idea of its being unlikely, nay, almost impossible, that you should, in the great number of your patients, remember me, who had but seldom attended you.

" ' I have not the slightest doubt of owing my present excellent state of general health, as well as the restoration of my voice, to galvanism and electricity combined; and sincerely wishing you the enjoyment of equal success with other patients, I remain, your much obliged, humble Servant, M. C.'

" Mr. C.—residing near Russell Square, was recommended to me by a friend of his, who had been under my care for a liver complaint, from which he had recovered through my mode of treatment. This patient applied to me about the beginning of October last. He was about twenty-three years of age, of a very pallid countenance, extremely emaciated, and had all the appearance of a person in the last stage of decline. He stated that he was seized with the hooping cough in January 1822, which he supposed was merely a common cold, and which had afterwards been improperly treated, producing the most alarming incessant coughing, attended with bloody expectoration of a very bright red colour; but that, after some months, he obtained some relief. In consequence however of a violent cold, in April 1822, his complaint returned with greater violence. He then placed himself under the care of several medical practitioners, who all, at different times, afforded him some relief, but no permanent or real benefit. He was dismissed from both the St. George's and St. James's Dispensaries as incurable. This serious affliction unfitted him for every kind of occupation, being reduced to such a degree of weakness, that he was scarcely able to walk across the room; and such was the state of his digestive organs, that he was utterly incapable of venturing on any animal or nourishing food. As he had no appetite, and could not endure the pain he felt after eating any thing substantial, he was obliged to live entirely on slops. At the time he first applied to me, his breath seemed greatly oppressed—the pulse was at 130, the cough incessant, the tongue not much furred, and the bowels frequently operated without the aid of medicine. He was extremely reduced and debilitated, and could not speak loud, nor could he inhale a deep breath. Conceiving this patient's case altogether hopeless, I declined his placing himself under my care until he had consulted an eminent physician. This medical gentleman perfectly coincided with me in opinion respecting the complaint, and had witnessed the extraordinary powers of galvanism in the common tubercular consumption. Being fully satisfied that if the patient did not obtain benefit, no injury could result from a course of galvanism, I commenced my operations on the 29th October last, and continued until the twelfth day of the

ent month, when I dismissed him, he having considered himself fectly restored to health. It was observable that he gradually overed from each distressing symptom in proportion as his digesfunctions were restored. In a week after the application of anism, he was enabled to digest animal food. His spirits, which e before greatly depressed, became much exhilarated. His gth increased to that degree, that in three or four weeks he able to walk ten miles in an afternoon without the least fatigue. hort he was, contrary to all human expectation, restored to a state erfect health, and continues well to this day, the 21st of January, ."

ERTAIN MILITARY PHYSICIANS.—*To the Editors of the ette of Health.*—Sirs, In one of your late numbers you some very apposite remarks on the report given by a military ician, of the results of his experience on the tar vapour in pulary affections; and which, from the injudicious and extraordimanner it was employed, was decidedly injurious in his hands: ed the ignorance shewn in these instances, both in chemical and ological knowledge, was hardly to be expected even in the mere pounder of the learned doctor's prescriptions. I will give you r instances of the professional acquirements of this class of doc-. The case is not published, but the writer of this vouches for truth of it.

General officer of great merit, and of the most amiable and ectable character, was attacked while at Zante, in 1813, with common fever of the country. In a day or two after he was ill, he sailed for Messina, a distance of two hundred miles. precise treatment of the General's illness, after his arrival, I not; but every visitor in the Mediterranean heard with astoment, that his cure was relied upon chiefly in the use of *cobwebs* e into pills, together with boluses of charcoal. The result you not ask: but I wonder if the famous Jacques Borland knows thing of this?

general officer, with whom I had dined, gave me a report to , made by his chief doctor, on the scurvy that had appeared ng some of the troops; and (would you believe it?) the leading t of the reasoning, so far as false grammar and bad spelling admitted, was to impress the idea that the affection of the th was to be considered in regard to scurvy, as the primary ptoms of syphilis are to those of confirmed lues!!! These men ushing themselves forward to get into practice somewhere about dsor or Richmond, and no doubt will give vogue to the new ifuge specific, as well as the publicity of the above improved m of pathology!! Physicus.

dinburgh, 1st December.

s not our scientific friend Physicus aware, that a party has formed in this metropolis to support the *respectability* and the nsions to *superior* knowledge of medicine of a learned tribe of l and military physicians of the jargonic class, headed by that great ician of two diplomas, Dr. James Johnson? In the *doctor's* terly work of Theatrical Medicine, which we hope, for the

honour of Edinburgh, as a school of medicine, is unknown
Physicus will find Dr. Wilson Philip, the scientific tar-
doctor, to whom he alludes, and some other writers of the da
signated great physiologists and most able physicians!!! A
to Sir Astley Cooper, so extraordinary a phenomenon is he
even his works are termed comets in the medical world!!

ABDOMINAL BANDAGES.—*To the Editors of the Gaz*
Health.—GENTLEMEN, I have received a letter this day fro
correspondent, *Mrs. H. Cregg, of Exeter*, in which she has
duced the following proofs of the efficacy of the abdominal ban
If you think the cases deserving of notice, you will oblige
inserting them in your valuable publication.

24, *Bedford Street, Covent Garden,* I am, Sir,
22d Jan. 1824. Your most obedient humble Serv
T. B

"*Case* 1. Mrs. C. of Exeter, had long laboured under wea
of the intestines, the sequel of dysentery, (there was appreh
that the colon was diseased); she also suffered from pai
weakness in the loins, the effect of a fall. She has perfectly rec
by wearing one of your abdominal bandages. She exper
immediate relief, and in less than a month found herself *pe*
recovered.

"*Case* 2. Miss L. had long laboured under great debility
pain and weakness of the loins was truly distressing, (she fan
disease of the kidneys was the cause of so much suffering.)
was induced to try one of your bandages (the pattern whic
pened to fit her.) She found it was support she had wanted.
benefit she has received enables her to walk about and enjoy he
indeed she seems another creature, and will not be prevailed
relinquish the comfort she now possesses.

"*Case* 3. Mrs. F. of Somerset, a lady who has had a
family, has found the most decided benefit from wearing one o
bandages.

"*Case* 4. A young lady, who from weakness had an enlarg
of the abdomen which annoyed her greatly, (she stooped als
the same cause,) put on a bandage in May last; she is b
quite erect, and a good form; no one could suspect she ha
been ill-shaped."

HOHENLOHISM.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Hea*
GENTLEMEN, I return you many thanks for inserting my las
munication on so unpopular a subject, in a protestant count
the defence of miracles; and I hope for the same indulgence
following observations on J. D.'s "Reply" to my last letter
I feel confident that most of your readers are aware that it
reply to the least important part of my letter. J. D. is
nant at my *conjecturing* him to be "a philosopher according
French idea of the word;" for *I did not "assert"* that he was s
he unfairly intimates by the *partial extract* which he make
my letter. And while I thank him for acquitting me of being
ated by any "intolerant or malicious motive" for my supposed
of courtesy, I deny that it arises from the "desperate hopele

of the cause I have undertaken to defend, or that I am "unable to refute" his "arguments;" for he has still to make it appear that I have not already done it in my last letter. If I have not, why does he *not* defend them from the remarks there made upon them? His letter of last month appears to be wrote principally for the purpose of introducing Dr. Jortin's opinion on the subject of miracles, against which I can bring not only the Scripture, as I have already done in my last letter, but the opinions of men equally learned with Dr. Jortin; but the opinion of any individual, whether Protestant or Catholic (especially of one who is so ignorant as to talk of "*adoration of saints and relics,*") will have but little or no weight with me against both the Scriptures and the Fathers. As to the "jesuitical sophistries" of the *learned* and pious Bossuett*, I am sure he will confer a great obligation on all lovers of truth, by exposing them, *if they exist;* for I, amongst others, have not been able to detect them; and, till very lately, I had as bad an opinion of the Catholic religion as he can possibly have.

In the beginning of his letter†, after making an extract from my letter respecting our Saviour's miracles, he says, "I am *too* charitably disposed to make any reflections on this passage; [Oh! superlatively charitable man! why did you threaten to give me 'a Rowland for my Oliver,' and then call the reader's attention to the passage in question?] and indeed, this 'Lover of Truth' has, with a frankness truly amiable, employed terms so plain and unequivocal, as to render comment not only unnecessary, but superfluous." If J. D., or any of your readers, have inferred, from the passage above alluded to (as he seems to have done), that I do not believe the miracles of our Saviour, or that I, or any Catholic, believe the miracles wrought by Prince Hohenlohe to be more credible than those of our Saviour, I assure them I had no such thought; and beg to state, that I not only believe the miracles recorded in the New Testament, but all other things therein; and would rather disbelieve, not only the miracles of Prince Hohenlohe, but all others wrought, or *said to have been wrought*, since the first century of the Christian era, than the least tittle of the New Testament; for it is no article of Catholic faith to believe them, and a person may live and die in the communion of the Catholic church without either believing *them*, or asking the prayers of Saints, praying for the dead, keeping or paying any kind of *even relative honour or respect* to images or relics; for *adoration* Catholics pay only to the *One true and living God*, in a Trinity of Persons.

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* The learned Dr. Blair, speaking of Bossuett, did not hesitate to say, that a greater man had not appeared since the commencement of the Christian era.

† You will perceive I am no logician, for I have overrun my subject; consequently, if *I* consider my cause so very hopeless, I should not dare to enter the field of controversy against a barrister; for being a *young* man, and having made medicine my study, I have not had much time to study controversy.

As to the extract J. D. has made from my letter, (wherein I assert that Catholics are as well informed as Protestants, and which was elicited by his charging the Catholic clergy with keeping the people in ignorance), I still persist in, and here add some few of many testimonies in proof of it. "Without partiality*," says a modern writer, "after making the comparison, I do seriously believe that, speaking in general, the religious knowledge of the poorer French was erudition compared with the poorer English."—"Even the poorest that were ignorant were ignorant amid the fairest opportunities, and in spite of the strongest inducements to knowledge. In most of the Dioceses in France, the more advanced among the children were obliged, on every Sunday, and many holidays, to repeat, by heart, in the parish church, the Epistle and Gospel of the day."—Cardinal Borromeo, Archbishop of Milan, in 1556, "established charity schools to the number of 740, "in which were 40,000 scholars"—a singular method of "keeping the people in ignorance." I also refer to the numerous Catholic charity schools in London, Preston, Liverpool, Manchester, and in other parts of England. Bonaparte tells us, there was scarce a man in his fine army, returning from Italy, who could not write like a clerk. "In most of the villages in Spain, there is the parish domine and charity school." I myself have known *many* Catholic priests, but never yet met with one who did not spend some part of every Sunday in catechising the children of their respective congregations. With respect to the English, take what that intelligent magistrate Mr. Colquhoun says: "In the population of England, above 1,170,000 children grow up to maturity without any useful impressions of religion or morality†." I could deduce many other extracts from different Protestant authorities, but am afraid of taking up too much of your valuable columns; but I hope I have given authority sufficient to justify some "*confidence*" in asserting what I did. With respect to what J. D. says as to the cries of the population of Madrid, I might retort what he says in the beginning of his letter, for it is certainly an appeal to the prejudices of Englishmen; I however hope most of your readers are aware, that implicit confidence is not to be placed on *newspaper reports*, with respect to the inquisition, as the clergy are the greatest sufferers from it. And though I am no advocate for it, I believe the nature, &c. of that institution has been much misrepresented. J. D. says "unanimity upon matters of doctrine is maintained abroad, by prohibiting discussion, &c." It would be entering on too large a field of discussion, or I could, I believe, prove that discussion is not prohibited in Catholic countries, and that the unanimity in question is owing to the first principles or groundwork of our faith, &c. As to J. D.'s Postscript respecting the ignorant old Scotswoman, too much of your valuable Publication has, in my opinion, been already wasted, or I might have made a few observations upon it; but, to use J. D.'s words, they "would be not only unnecessary, but superfluous."

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* See The Spirit of Religious Controversy. p. 159, &c.

† Colquhoun's new and appropriate System of Education, p. 72.

If I have unintentionally said any thing in the above to offend J. D., I am sorry for it; and I assure you, my sole object in writing to you was, and is, to correct false statements, I dare say innocently made, by J. D. and others. I am, Sir, your very obedient Servant,

A LOVER OF TRUTH.

Postscript.—In reply to what you say, (page 744), I do not think it at all important as to the manner in which Prince Hohenlohe's miracles are performed, whether by exciting a strong impression, or otherwise; but that this is not always the case we know, for he has cured children, upon whom it would have been impossible to excite the impression you speak of. I also, on this subject, *particularly beg to refer you*, J. D. and your other readers, to a Letter, by the learned antiquarian and divine, Dr. Milner, in reply to the Edinburgh Review, published in the Catholic Miscellany, printed by Cuddon, Carthusian Street, Charterhouse Square.

THE PULSE.—It appears, by our earliest records, that anterior to the time of Hippocrates, the pulse was totally disregarded; and as Hippocrates only notices it twice, it is probable he was very superficially acquainted with its indications. Herophilus seems to have been the first who entered fully into the doctrines of the pulse; but in consequence of being ignorant of the circulation of the blood, each attempt only involved himself in greater difficulties. Celsus, who may be justly termed the father of practical surgery, paid great attention to the pulse; but finding himself often deceived by it, in consequence of not being acquainted with the manner in which the blood was conveyed to and from the heart, and transmitted through the body, he termed it *res fallacissima;* and this opinion was confirmed by the late Dr. Heberden, who published some observations, to show that little dependence is to be placed on it alone; and the truth of his remarks is acknowledged by all modern practitioners of experience and observation. Mr. Abernethy, in speaking of the pulse, in his work on the Chylopoietic functions, observes, that he does not despair of some means being discovered, of ascertaining the state of the nervous system with as much accuracy as practitioners now do the state of the sanguiferous system by the pulse.

The physician who has profited by experience, not only consults the pulse, with the view of ascertaining the state of the blood-vessels, with respect to plenitude, &c., but also the state of the nervous system; and, in our opinion, the manner in which the pulsations follow each other, throws more light on the state of the nervous than of the sanguiferous system. The smart or quick pulse, and quick irregular pulse, indicate great nervous excitement; and a frequent, small, soft, and trembling pulse, shews nervous debility: indeed, the influence of the mind on the heart, and consequently on the pulse, sufficiently shews the intimate connexion between the two systems, and how much the sanguiferous is affected by the nervous. Dr. Forbes, of Penzance, in his translation of Dr. Laennec's Treatise on Diseases of the Chest (published about three years since, in Paris), speaking of the pulse, observes, "The insufficiency of this, as the *test* of disease, must be acknowledged, by every *experienced* and *observant* practitioner; yet it is surprising to perceive the

effect of habit and early association in this matter." How often, says Dr. Laennec, do we hear of a pulse being half a dozen or half a score of pulsations above or below par, and indications of cure founded on these supposed important observations. The late Dr. Parry of Bath, after noticing the uncertainty of the indications of the pulse, observes, "If these things are so, surely we ought to wonder at the confidence with which physicians, unacquainted with surgery, look to the condition of the pulse as the general evidence of the state of disease, and the chief rule of the administration of remedies.

Dr. Laennec makes the following remarks on the pulse, which are certainly, as Dr. Forbes observes, very interesting. "We have seen, that in pleurisy and inflammation of the lungs, the absence of fever, and a perfectly natural state of the pulse, frequently accompany an incurable state of the malady. In diseases of the heart, the pulse is often feeble, sometimes even almost imperceptible, although the contraction of the left ventricle is preternaturally energetic. In apoplexy, on the contrary, we often meet with a very strong pulse when the action of the heart is scarcely discoverable. These two opposite facts," the doctor observes, "may easily be verified by the use of an instrument he has lately invented, termed the stethoscope. I have," says the doctor, "done so, perhaps more than a thousand times within the last three years." These different actions of the heart and arteries are a clear proof that the arteries possess a power of action independent of that of the heart. "It would seem," says Dr. Laennec, "to be proved by many other facts, that the different systems subservient to the circulation, although necessarily and reciprocally dependent, have still, in other respects, a particular or individual existence, which, in certain states of disease, and in certain individuals, is more marked and isolated than in ordinary cases and circumstances. This view of the case is supported by the observations of practitioners, in all ages, of the different effects of bleeding, according as it is general or local, venous or arterial, depletive or derivative. The same is shewn by the great benefit of a natural hemorrhage, of a few ounces only," (he might have said drachms), "and the inefficacy of copious abstraction of blood from a vein in the same case; and by the trifling degree of exhaustion produced sometimes by very profuse hemorrhage, compared with the great collapse occasioned by the bleeding of a few leeches in the same person." These facts, in the opinion of Dr. Laennec, prove that the capillary is in some manner independent of the general circulation. The influence of the latter on the former seems very inconsiderable indeed in certain hemorrhages from the uterus, bowels, nose or lungs, which are found to be very little affected by the most copious bleeding.

The mere state of the pulse, then, is far from indicating the state of the *general* circulation. It does not even certainly indicate its condition in the whole heart, as it merely corresponds with the contraction of the *left* ventricle, which may be regular at the time when that of the auricles and right ventricle is irregular. In like manner the state of the pulse fails to be a sure guide as to the expediency of blood-letting. Every one knows, that in certain cases, for in-

stance, in apoplexy, inflammation of the lungs, pleurisy, and inflammatory affections of an abdominal viscus, the weakness and smalness of the pulse do not contra-indicate an abstraction of blood; on the contrary, the arterial system in such cases, recovers its force and fulness after the loss of blood. The recognition of this kind of pulse, is indeed one of the most important and difficult points in the treatment of internal inflammation; as an error in respect of it would probably be fatal. In cases of this sort, the doctor asserts, the stethoscope affords a rule much surer than the pulse.

Whenever the contraction of the ventricles is energetic, which may be ascertained by the instrument, we may, says he, bleed without fear. The pulse will rise: but if the contractions of the heart be feeble, although the pulse still retains a certain degree of strength, we must be cautious respecting the employment of the lancet. When the pulse is very strong, and the contractions of the heart moderately strong (as is frequently the case in apoplexy), we may still bleed with advantage, as long as there is not a marked diminution in the noise and impulse of the heart's actions, which is discoverable by the stethoscope. But when both the pulse and the heart are feeble, we must not open a vein, whatever be the name or the seat of the disease, as such practices must infallibly destroy the few resources still left to nature. The most we can do, in such a case, if there be any *local* congestion, is, to try, by the application of a few leeches, if the patient can bear an abstraction of blood from the capillaries."

In cases of apoplexy of elderly people, which is occasioned by venous congestion, the feeble manner in which the contraction of the ventricles of the heart are effected, does not contra-indicate bleeding, because the contractile power of the heart is diminished by the mechanical effects of the distended sinuses and veins on the brain; and when that is removed by abstraction of blood from the jugular vein, the heart will speedily recover its power, and the blood will be transmitted through the arterial system, so as to distend the pulse.

The certainty and facility with which the necessity or propriety of bleeding may be ascertained by the use of the stethoscope, which has been considered among the most difficult in practical medicine, Dr. Laennec considers to be the most important advantage that arises from the use of his invention. After the acknowledged uncertainty of the indications of the pulse, unconnected with any other circumstance or symptom, it is not a little surprising that the practice of feeling the pulse has been so generally followed in all ages. "The reason of the practice," says the doctor, "is, however, sufficiently obvious. It is of easy performance, and gives little inconvenience either to the physician or patient; the cleverest, it is true, can derive from it but a few indications and uncertain conjectures; but the most ignorant can, without exposing themselves, reduce from it all sorts of indications. Even its very uncertainty gives it a preference with persons of inferior qualifications, over means quite certain in their nature, and which enable the non-professional observer to judge of the skill of the physician by the correctness of his prognostics. The facts of the discordance sometimes existing between

the action of the heart and of the arteries, more especially as to strength, Dr. Laennec considers "contrary to the opinion of modern physiologists, who consider the action of the arteries as entirely dependant on that of the heart. Bichat himself has fallen into this error." In our 94th number we have discussed this subject pretty fully, under the head of *Circulation of the Blood.* The late Dr. Fordyce, who paid particular attention to the indications of the pulse, published the following Table for the instruction of junior practitioners:

Indicates	*by*	*It is called*
1. The degree of strength of the contraction of the heart	Strength	Strong.
	Weakness	Weak.
2. The *quantity* of blood thrown out at each contraction of the heart	Fulness	Full.
	Smalness	Small.
3. The *number* of contractions	Frequency	Frequent.
	Slowness	Slow.
4. The *regularity* or *irregularity* of its action, as to strength, quantity, or frequency	Regularity	Regular.
	Irregularity	Irregular.
	Intermission	Intermittent.
5. The *strength* of the action of the arteries	Hardness	Hard.
	Softness	Soft.
	Redoubling	Redoubling.
	Trembling	Trembling.
6. The *irritability* of the *vessels*	Quickness	Quick.
	Regularity	Regular.
	Slowness	Slow.
7. The *medium* diameter of the arteries	Dilatation	Great.
	Contraction	Small.
8. The *quantity* of blood in the vessels	Oppression	Oppressed.
	Smalness	Empty.
9. The *contraction* of the capillaries	Obstruction	Obstructed.
	Freedom	Free.

Invalids, supposing that the state of the pulse throws great light on the nature of their afflictions, as well as the probability of their recovery, the pompous class of legitimate physicians make a most imposing exhibition of a large watch, with dashing chain and seals, profound looks and attitude, during the time of examining the pulse. The poor sufferer supposes that the use of the watch is to ascertain, with precision, the state of the pulse; he little thinks that it is mere "chamber effect." The late Mr. John Bell, of Edinburgh, observed, when speaking of the pulse, "it gives the physician the opportunity of looking most learned, when he is most ignorant;" and ignorant indeed must that invalid be, who supposes that the watch can be of more service to the physician, in ascertaining the state of the pulse, than its splendid appendages. In the first place, the practitioner who has studied medicine as a science, and not its arts as a trade or a means of obtaining wealth, is able, on commencing practice, to know the rate at which a pulse beats without a watch,

a to one pulsation; and even if he should not within two or three, ly in no case can so small a number be of any consequence: it is not the *number* of pulsations in one minute or two minutes, t throws any light of the smallest importance on a disease; it is *manner* in which the pulsations are effected which affords indi- ons of any consequence, and that *manner* cannot be ascertained watch, but by the sense of touch only. It is common for a legiti- e physician to observe to his patient that he is better, because the e is reduced to a certain number in a minute, without even wing the natural pulse of the patient. Now in acute disease it ot unusual for a pulse to run on rapidly the first half-minute, the other half-minute slowly. If a pulse for the first quarter minute beat 35 times, the next quarter intermit twice and only 20 times, and next half 30 times, to say the pulse only 90 times in the minute, although accurately ascertained by a ch, is saying nothing, for it is worse than nonsense. Dr. Fordyce very properly made a distinction between the quick and the uent pulse. The quick pulse cannot be ascertained by the watch, ause the quick pulse may be slow, that is, the contraction of the ry may be quick, and the intervals between each contraction g. A frequent pulse, again, may be strong in its contraction or k; and none of these states, nor others of equal consequence, be intermittent, soft, &c., can be ascertained by a watch; and if watch directs the mind of the physician, if mind he has, it will re injurious to his credulous patient, unless indeed, which is n the case, the disease be of that nature which is curable by *idence*. When a practitioner makes use of a watch in feeling pulse, the invalid may be satisfied that he is only studying amber effect," and that he entertains a contemptible opinion is intellects. It is common for a physician, who holds an ap- tment to an Hospital, when he makes a book, to puff it off as aining the results of his *private* and *hospital* practice; and in cing both he is correct,—for in the latter the patients are not ainly influenced by "chamber effects." Instead of entering ard gently and on tip-toe, and of approaching the bed with ountenance expressive of sympathy, he boldly walks forward, ly feels the pulse, and never with a watch. The little offices xamining the urine, fæces, tongue, &c. are also disregarded; instead of a long prescription, he contents himself with writing *edicamenta repetantur*," without even taking the trouble to en- e what he had been taking, or their effects. The politic ci- ies to the nurse are also neglected; for if she dare to interfere, ead of thanking her with a smile of approbation, &c. &c. &c., will be fortunate if she escapes a lecture for her impudent inter- nce. This is the routine hospital practice of the pompous legi- te physicians, whose trade is that of fees, and who speak in empt of the improvements of the moderns, and represent the lico-chirurgical physician as a dangerous quack. Surely surely, he present state of medicine, these fooleries, "the chamber cts" and tricks, should be reprobated by every honest prac- ner. Instead of the watch, the physician of real scientific

attainments, looks at the face of the patient, because he knows the appearances of the eyes and the countenance often show how far the irregular action of the pulse is influenced by the mind, and because the indications of the countenance are often of greater consequence than those of the pulse.

The "Table of the Pulse," published by Dr. Fordyce, requires no explanation. In drawing conclusions on the indications of the pulse under disease, the physician of science takes into consideration the natural pulse of the patient, which often greatly differs in different subjects. He also seldom feels the pulse until he has had some conversation with the patient when he is in a sensible state; and when he feels it soon after seeing him, he does it again on leaving him, because the difference, if any, throws much light on the state of the nervous system.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*—SIRS, In consequence of your recommendation of Mr. Batley's sedative liquor of opium as a sedative similar to morphia, that is, producing serene sleep without disturbing the head, I took the trouble chemically to examine that article, with the view of ascertaining whether it contained narcotin, to which your correspondent, Dr. De Sanctis, and some chemical physician of the gay philosophical city of Paris, attribute the baneful effects of opium. After carefully evaporating one ounce of the said sedative liquor of opium, I subjected the residuum to the proper examination, and the results soon evinced the presence both of narcotin and morphia, in the same proportions as in the Turkey opium. What advantage then does this boasted sedative liquor possess over a weak vinous solution of opium? If Mr. Batley will not answer this question in the only way which, to a chemist in search of facts, can prove satisfactory; viz. by *candidly* giving his mode of preparing it, I will *candidly* acquaint him with one very great objection to his preparation, which is, that in a warm place it rapidly runs into the acetous fermentation, in which state it produces very slight, if any, sedative effect. In consequence of the derangement which is produced by the fermentative process, new combinations are formed, which differ in their medicinal properties as much as they do in their chemical arrangements from the liquor in a vinous state; and this fact proves the truth of my assertion respecting new products from chemical decompositions, which have been pompously brought forward as educts. Even morphia dissolved in wine will soon undergo decomposition, and the new combinations which form possess different properties. As you positively stated three years ago, that Mr. Batley would communicate the method of making the sedative liquor of opium, after the profession had given it a fair trial, and especially as Dr. Paris, in the last edition of his Pharmacologia, has boldly termed it a nostrum; he will no doubt, after publicly reminding him of his duty, publish the mode of preparing it.

That new products do form on mixing different articles, and on decomposing others, is a fact which no chemist will dispute; and I am satisfied that many of the combinations, which form on disturbing the component parts by chemical agents, are new products, into

which even the tests themselves enter. Narcotin and morphia I consider to be new products, and, consequently, that neither existed in the opium. By distilling a mixture of sulphuric acid and alcohol, are not two new products obtained, termed ether, and the ethereal *acid;* and will Dr. De Sanctis, or any other competent scientific chemist, say, that either of them existed in the sulphuric acid, or in the alcohol? Again: on mixing the nitric and muriatic acids together, is not a new article produced, termed chlorine, which did not exist in either of the acids? If green wood be decomposed by the matter of heat, in a close retort, an acid and petroleum will escape, neither of which can, by any other means, be obtained from the wood, nor their presence detected; and the residuum in the retort will be found to be charcoal, free from potass. If, on the contrary, the decomposition of the wood by the matter of heat be carried on in a vessel exposed to the air, the residuum will be found to contain carbonate of potass. Will any chemist say that the carbonate of potass, or pure potass, existed in the wood anterior to its combustion? Is not the idea of potass, and an acid resembling vinegar existing in green wood, preposterous? If they did, why should we not obtain the acetate of potass by evaporating a decoction of such wood? The fact is, they are new products, from the *disorganization* of the wood by the matter of heat, and the article termed by Sir Humphry Davy potassium, is a new production from the decomposition of potass by the galvanic fluid, and did not exist in the potass. Are not metallic productions produced in the atmosphere by the action of a similar agent—lightning; and will any man say that the meteoric productions were educts and not products? Even in the analysis of mineral waters, combinations form which did not exist in the water: for instance, how common is it for chemists, in their reports of the composition of mineral waters, to notice the sulphate of soda, the muriate of soda, and the sulphate of magnesia. Now, on dissolving these articles in water, there would be a change of base; the sulphuric acid of the sulphate of magnesia would unite with the soda of the muriate of soda, and the muriatic acid that would be liberated would seize the magnesia. In Dr. Scudamore's work on Mineral Waters, you will find there salts specified, in his Analysis, of several mineral springs.

It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, in the present state of chemical science, always to distinguish products from educts; and therefore absurd in the extreme to condemn, as Dr. Paris does, certain compositions on chemical grounds; for the articles which he supposes to be educts, are in fact products, and consequently the virtues of the medicines are not destroyed or diminished by the admixture which he pronounces unchemical. To the pharmacologist, a little chemical learning is a dangerous thing. There are some experiments which have been published in England, which are not involved in such mystery; I mean the experiments on rabbits, with the galvanic fluid, by Dr. Wilson Philip. The doctor states, that after shaving the skin over the stomach of a young rabbit, and binding a shilling on the part, he divided the eighth pair of nerves, and coated a quarter of an inch of the lower part of each

with tin foil. The tin foil and shilling were then connected with the opposite ends of the galvanic trough, containing fifty-two four-inch plates of zinc and copper; the intervals being filled with muriatic acid and water, in the proportion of one of acid and seven of water. The galvanic influence, he adds, produced strong contractions of the muscles, particularly of the fore limbs. The doctor supposes that the galvanic fluid was conveyed by the ramifications of the eighth pair of nerves, throughout the substance of the stomach of the rabbit; and after stimulating the glands, and promoting the secretion of the gastric juice, it collected, and travelled to the shilling!! Now this is most scientific and clever. The result was, as the doctor, and his brilliant coadjutor, Mr. Hastings, had preconceived, and convinced them of the identity of the nerves and galvanic fluids. If the nerves were better conductors than the parts which surround them, no person, acquainted with the manner in which the galvanic fluid travels, would for a moment suppose, that it would pass downwards to the stomach, and then upwards to the shilling. The nerves being in close contact with a conducting substance, the fluid would take a straight direction to the shilling. If the nerves be a better conductor of the fluid than any other part of the body, why apply the shilling to the skin over the stomach, and connect it with an opposite end of the trough, to hasten the fluid from the stomach? Would it not have been more scientific, if the learned experimentalists, or great physiologists, as they have been termed by the editor of an English medical review, had introduced the shilling into the stomach of the rabbit, and connected it with the opposite end of the trough, by introducing a wire up the intestines? The fact is, the nerves are *not* better conductors than any other part of the body; and numerous experiments I have lately made with the fluid on rabbits, frogs, and dogs, fully confirm your assertion, that muscles, as long as they retain their irritability, are better conductors than nerves; and the facts noticed by Dr. Philip, of the strong contraction of the muscles of the fore limbs, which occurred during the application of the fluid, prove, that notwithstanding the ceremony of coating the nerves with tin foil, shaving the skin over the stomach, and binding a shilling over it, the fluid escaped by muscles, and no portion went to the stomach. The doctor's scientific experiment, I am told, has been repeated by him and Mr. Brande, at the Royal Institution, in the presence of some of the wondering members!! If such is the case, it is most strange to me that Mr. Brande should not have discovered the absurdity of supposing that the galvanic fluid took a direction to the stomach. If Mr. Brande has been so imprudent, as to hastily give the powerful sanction of his name to the experiment, I can tell him, that the reports of the experiments have so lowered the Royal Society in the estimation of men of science, in different countries of the Continent, that it is his duty to repeat them, and to ascertain if the nerves are better conductors of the galvanic fluid than muscles.

On the strength of the *scientific* experiment with galvanic fluid on the stomachs of rabbits, it seems Dr. Philip has published a "Treatise on indigestion and *its consequences*, commonly termed nervous

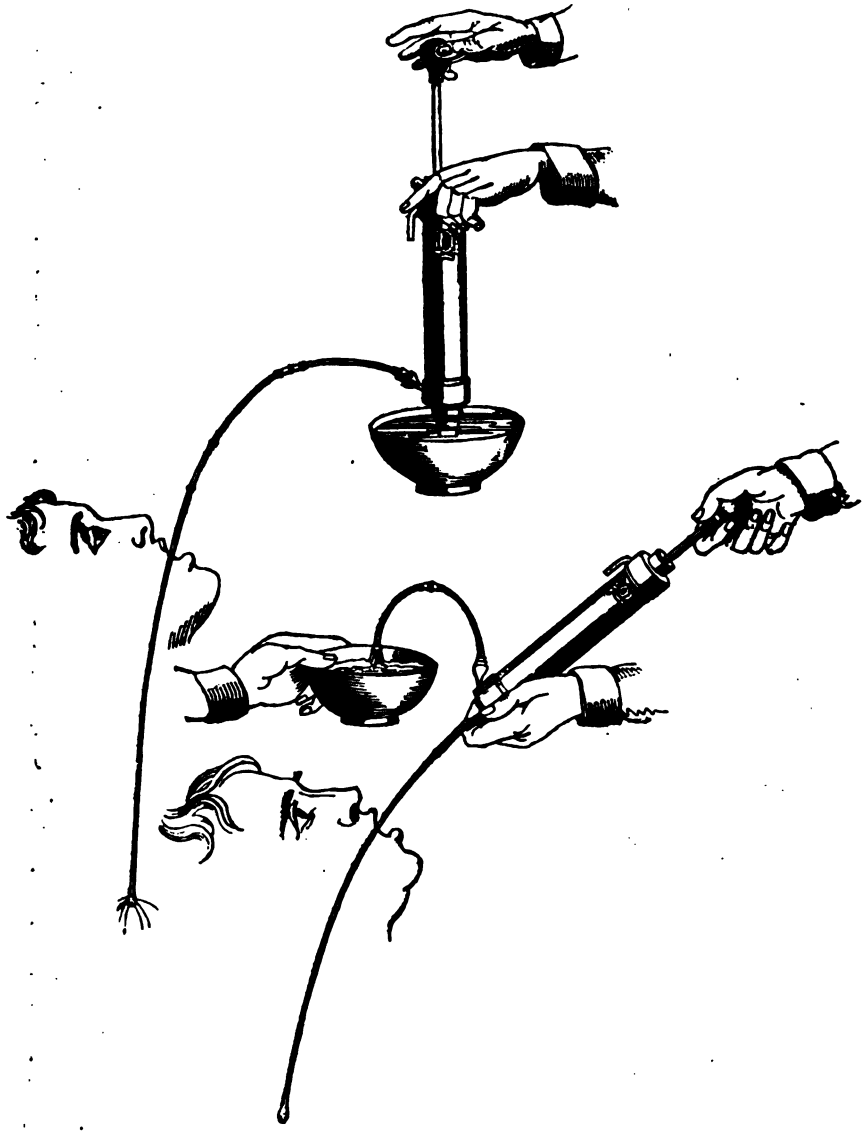
Allow me to ask you, if the object of the writer is to
information to the medical profession, or to advertise
urer of indigestion, and its consequences, commonly
us and bilious? The title of the book is certainly
d to attract the attention of invalids, than members of
; and as I observe the doctor's advertisement in nearly
h papers which are received in Paris, I suspect he has
e for being so industrious, in giving the work publi-
le has been ridiculed here, by some physicians, who
tion is a process conducted in the stomach; and that
t properly performed, so as to constitute indigestion,
mach or the food must be in fault. The stomach may
or secondarily affected. Indigestion, as it is termed,
consequence of some condition of the stomach or of the
tor has therefore the credit of well sifting the malady,
e *consequences* of a *consequence*!!! Really it appears
dicine in England has been for some time retrograding,
already at a contemptible ebb.
turn to Paris, which I expect to do in about a fortnight,
a few hours to your correspondent, Dr. De Sanctis;
troversy should be continued, I will thank you to let
is letter appear in the number following the one which
loctor's, to prevent confusion.

I am, Sirs, your sincere Friend,

. 23, 1824. J. S. EDWARDS, M. D.

CTUM AND STOMACH SYRINGE. — In our last
oticed, under the head of *Constipation*, an ingenious
Mr. Read, for injecting not only the rectum, but, in
sity, the whole intestinal canal, and also the tubes he
led to it, on the suggestion of Dr. Chesholm, a scientific
ced physician of Canterbury. In the following page
tation of the syringe, with the additional tubes for
washing out the stomach in cases of laudanum, or any
, being swallowed.
t section, the operator is conveying a fluid into the
the vessel in which it rests; and in the second, he is
stomach, the tube by which the fluid was conveyed
ach being fastened at the bottom, and a shorter one
mer place, to convey the fluid from the stomach into a
e poison was taken during a meal, or soon after one,
e operator will find it very difficult to empty the sto-
sequence of the food clogging the apertures at the end
hich is introduced into the stomach; and even when it
tain much fluid, it sometimes happens, when conveyed
of the stomach, that the internal coat is so drawn into
not only to stop them, but, if the operator employs
o produce very acute pain, if not serious mischief. If
iquid be forced into the stomach, part of the poison may
through the pylorus, into the duodenum. If the
wallowed a poisonous dose of laudanum or opium, the

best fluid to inject, according to Drs. Majendie, Orfila, and De Sanctis, is diluted vinegar. If it be white arsenic, or a mineral poison, we would recommend the operator to inject a weak solution of the sulphuret of potass, or a mixture of magnesia and flowers of



sulphur, or the whites of eggs mixed with water. After the poison is removed, bleeding, blistering, and an anodyne, with demulcents, are important remedies.

For the purpose of forcing a fluid up the intestinal canal, Mr. Read has added two tubes to be attached to the end, in the same manner as the one in the last section. The one is for an assistant, to exhibit the lavement, and the other for the patient to administer it to himself. The invention is unquestionably a very important addition to our surgical apparatus; and as a recovery of a patient, after swallowing poison, as well as in cases of intestinal obstruction, depends on the prompt employment of an instrument of this sort, one should be kept by at least one surgeon or leading character in every parish.

The price of the instrument, for injecting the intestinal canal, is 2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and with the additional tubes, 3*l.* 10*s.* Mr. Read gives directions with each instrument for using it.

COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—On the 14th of February, the members of the College of Surgeons assembled in the theatre of the College, to hear the annual Hunterian Oration, by Mr. Cline. After Sir William Blizard had acted the part of a stage manager, by placing the court of assistants in their proper place, he took a view of the audience, and discovering two Quakers uncovered, he asked them, in an imperious tone of voice, and with a majestic wave of the hand, *if they knew in whose presence they were*!! The hats remained unmoved, the knight continued to vociferate, till some gentleman informed him, that the two contumacious members were of the respectable society of Friends.

The intemperate manner in which this knight of the lancet addressed the gentlemen, will, we suspect, not raise him in the estimation of the Fellows of the College; for whether the gentlemen were Quakers or not, as members of the body, they were entitled to more respectful treatment. Do the Court of Assistants of the College of Surgeons intend to follow the example of the College of Physicians, and exercise the same domineering authority over the members as the latter do over the licentiates? If they do, we can assure them that they will not find surgeons so tractable; for there are many among them, and the Court of Assistants know it, as well acquainted with the science and practice of surgery as themselves. The nonsense of legitimate medicine may frighten the poor timid licentiates; but such foolery is despised by modern surgeons. A spirit of monopoly having been observed in the conduct of the Court of Assistants, we advise some of them not to

> "Forget the dunghill where they grew,
> "And fancy themselves the Lord knows who."

The custom of delivering annually a complimentary oration to the memory of a man whose *works* have rendered him immortal, and which speak emphatically more in his praise than the first orator among the Court of Examiners can do, not excepting the majestic Sir William Blizard, has already nauseated the members of the College in general. Indeed, is it not ridiculously *cruel* to puzzle the brains of an old man, by requiring him to compose an oration on the merits of a dead person, a third or fourth time? Do pray,

most erudite and liberal Court of Assistants, think of some other subject to amuse, or rather to instruct those members of the College who condescend to attend the annual lecture.

Mr. Cline, after dwelling emphatically on the important discoveries of the late John Hunter, expatiated on the merits of King Alfred!! This digression, and the impressive manner in which he delivered his encomiums on that great monarch, who certainly had much to do with the establishment of a College of Surgeons, and with the promotion of the art and science of surgery, excited some murmuring. The orator omitted, unintentionally no doubt, to notice the state of the funds of the establishment, and to what purposes the immense sums they have received for diplomas have been applied! The members were politely told, they were at liberty to send as many presents to the establishment as they thought proper, for however they may limit their interference with the management of the institution, they would not their donations!

HUNT'S GENUINE ROASTED CORN.—This article has for some months been industriously advertised by the disinterested radical patriot, the "Friend of the People," Henry Hunt, Esq. as a substitute for coffee, at the very *moderate* price of one shilling a pound. In his advertisement, the Patriot, from the most honourable motives, no doubt, cautions the public against "*cheap* Roasted Corn, which is now offered for sale in almost every street in the metropolis"!! Although the process of roasting corn is as simple as that of toasting a piece of bread, this *humane disinterested* patriot has the impudence to caution the public against the corn roasted by tradesmen, who we are certain would not feel complimented by being represented as respectable as himself, although he styles himself an Esquire, and, indeed, may be one for aught we know. Those tradesmen sell it, although the corn is by no means inferior to that used by the Patriot, and although equally well if not better roasted, at the price of four-pence, on which they can afford to allow twenty-five per cent. to retailers!! So much for the *disinterested* spirit of radical patriotism!!!—and so much for the *sincerity* of the wish of this Radical Reformer to ameliorate the conditions of the lower classes of society!! Ignorant, indeed, must such classes be, if this one fact does not enable them to discover the object of radical reformers. The observations we have made, in an early number, on the properties of coffee, as an article of diet, apply equally to roasted corn. By roasting corn, or berries, an article, on which its flavour depends, is produced, which on some nervous subjects has seriously disturbed the general health, in some instances producing violent head-ache and distressing distension of the stomach and bowels. We have lately recommended a trial of the roasted corn, and in nineteen cases out of twenty it has been followed by distressing head-ache, and in one instance it was succeeded by symptoms of approaching apoplexy. Neither roasted coffee berries, nor roasted corn, afford any nourishment; for their mucilaginous property, which affords nourishment, is entirely destroyed by charring, or roasting. They only impart flavour to water, and that by a principle which is poisonous.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

100.] To APRIL 1, 1824. [Vol. IX.

E NEW LONDON PHARMACOPŒIA (continued from folio)—In the names of the simple and compound articles, they have wisely made few alterations. In the Pharmacopœia of 1809, a was introduced in the place of *Cantharis*; in the present one, old name is restored to its rank, as more scientific—a proof, if were wanted, of College consistency. A physician, residing in bridge, on being consulted by the College on some of the alter- s they intended to make in the names of drugs, made the fol- ng sensible reply: "I consider that name the best by which rticle is best known; and as to the propriety of altering names either of simple or compound articles, I assure you, that pothecaries in this part of the kingdom are not acquainted with last batch of new names, and, to avoid mistakes, I still use the es of our oldest Pharmacopœia."

here being a great difference between the chemical articles em- ed in philosophical or experimental chemistry, and those used in pounding prescriptions, it is ridiculous to employ the same es for both. Indeed, in making the attempt, the College have ced an ignorance of the science of chemistry; for the article they led subacetate of lead was an acetate, and that to which gave the name of superacetate was only an acetate; and errors is kind were numerous in the former edition.

hemistry, notwithstanding the great progress it has made within last fifteen years, is still in its infancy; and as the names of cles have been so frequently altered by the chemists on the Con- nt, in consequence of new discoveries, it is absurd to borrow s it names, until the science be more steady, or be brought to tter perfection.

n the division of the Pharmacopœia, the College have also made a culous attempt at an exhibition of science. Their desire to appear ntific has led them to attempt an impossibility; *i. e.* to arrange the cles under the heads of the three kingdoms of nature, of which r are products, viz. *animal*, *vegetable*, and *mineral*. Many of the cles being compounds of productions of two or all the kingdoms, s clear that such an arrangement cannot possibly be correct. College, before they enter on this "grand scientific division," two tables, one of acids, and the other of alcalies, and their s. The former embraces animal and vegetable acids, and even s, with directions for preparing them, which appear in the *Materia dica*. If this be not inconsistency, we know not what is. The e of alcalies contains *vegetable* and *mineral* alcalies, and their pounds, with mineral and vegetable acids.

n the mineral department, under the head of 'Earths,' they in- luce shells of fish. We should have considered shells an animal duct—as much so as burnt horns, or sponge—but the College

regard them as similar to white marble, and the College are *classical* chemists! Under the head of 'Metals,' articles appear which are compounds of the mineral and vegetable kingdoms, and the mineral and animal kingdoms; as tartarized antimony, the wine of tartarized antimony, and antimonial powder. In each department, compounds of the different kingdoms are numerous, but the above are sufficient to prove the absurdity of the arrangement.

For making some distilled waters they give two directions; viz. distilling the herb, or the essential oil, which is left to the discretion of the apothecary. If the oil be used, a considerable quantity of it will be found floating at the top, after the quantity of water is drawn over. The utility of "steeping the oil in the water," previously to distillation, we cannot discover; it is perhaps, according to legitimate medicine, classical, if not chemical; at any rate, the oil having been obtained by distillation, the water may, with some propriety, be termed *double* distilled!!

Of the new compounds, the syrup of sarsaparilla, and the confection of black pepper, are the principal. The former has been long held in high estimation, as a "sweetener of the blood," in France. Even if the sarsaparilla possess any medicinal property, the great proportion of sugar in the syrup would counteract it, for by becoming acid in the stomach, it uniformly disturbs the bowels. Experience of thirty years has convinced us, that sarsaparilla contains no more virtue, as a medicine, than straw; and in case of debility of the digestive organs, has done much mischief. The latter composition has been, for many years, sold as a quack medicine, under the name of Ward's Paste, for piles, &c. &c. &c. In the last stage of piles, and in piles arising from mere over-distension of the hemorrhoidal veins, from debility, it has been of service; but in cases attended with morbid irritation, or inflammatory excitement, or when the consequence of organic stricture of the rectum (a common cause), it has been productive of the most serious mischief. The College, however, with the true spirit of monachism, have not condescended to state for what disease these curious compounds are introduced. Although they assert, that neither cochineal nor saffron possess any virtue, both articles appear in the formula for the compound tincture of the Peruvian bark; a tincture which certainly does not require a colouring article. The "colouring articles" have the effect of advancing the price of the tincture from four to seven shillings a pint. They also give a formula for a syrup of saffron, and it is common for legitimate physicians to prescribe it to form a mass for pills!! The Public is really too much enlightened on medicine, to be induced to place more confidence in a medicine on account of its colour; and indeed, we may say that *modern* medicine requires neither the cloak of a dead language, nor the aid of a colouring matter; for by the industry of the medico-chirurgical practitioner, it has been brought to a degree of perfection, as to render deception unnecessary.

Under the head of Confection of Rue, they give a most curious compound, taken from an old Pharmacopœia, consisting of dried

rue leaves, caraway seeds, bay berries, sagapenum, black pepper, and clarified honey!! Such a composition may be creditable to legitimate medicine, but to modern medicine it is a disgrace. A similar composition is often given to old cows, to facilitate parturition. For what purpose was this curious composition introduced?

The College, in compliment (as they may suppose) to the College of Surgeons, have condescended to continue the formulæ for ointments, plasters, &c. The learned College having long resolved not to grant a licence to a physician, who was a member of the College of Surgeons, to practise physic even in common cases of disease, for the very plausible reason, that a practitioner cannot be a physician and a surgeon: such a condescension is certainly highly creditable to them. The College of Physicians was first instituted as much for the promotion of the science and art of surgery, as the science and arts of physic; and the College, who have never been accused of a want of deep policy, may think it necessary to keep up some appearance of promoting chirurgical knowledge. Many donations having been made to the College, for promoting the science and art of surgery, and Dr. Caldwall and Lord Lumley having founded a lectureship on surgery, with a *liberal* annual stipend, the College may suppose that the mere publication of formulæ for chirurgical remedies, entitles them to those donations, and that it is equivalent to the delivery of lectures on surgery!! Government having instituted a College of Surgeons, it behoves the Court of Assistants to enquire to what purposes those donations, and the "annual stipend for a lecturer on surgery" are applied. The College of Physicians, supposing that a knowledge of surgery derogates from their dignity (in consequence of antient medicine, which was chiefly chirurgical, having decidedly retrograded or degenerated at our English universities), they will no doubt readily give up their claim to them to the College of Surgeons.

The College have attended to our suggestion, in omitting the extract of opium, and naming the distilled vinegar *dilute* acetic acid, instead of *acetic acid*. They should, however, have given a form for diluting the acetic acid with distilled water, instead of directing the vinegar to be distilled, that it may be obtained of a regular strength. Although they have introduced the rhatany root into their Materia Medica, they have given no formula for the tincture, infusion, or decoction!! We were glad to find it in the Materia Medica, because it is unquestionably the most efficacious and grateful tonic medicine with which we are acquainted. We have not particularly recommended it in cases of debility, on account of many practitioners supposing, that because we first introduced it into practice, we were interested in its sale. The article is as regularly imported as that of Peruvian bark, and being purchased by drug merchants, we have no more to do with it than any other practitioner. Some physicians have had the liberality to term it a nostrum, not from ignorance of its being a natural production, but with the view of stigmatizing our professional character; and some writers have had the effrontery to attack us for introducing a nostrum!! The article having been legitimized, we may now venture to speak

of it as it deserves, without giving our enemies an opportunity to assail us. About twelve years ago, Dr. Adams informed us, that a legitimate physician told him, that if he noticed the favourable account of the rhatany root, which appeared in a foreign journal, in the medical journal of which the doctor was the editor, he and his colleagues would not take in the work So much for the liberality of legitimate physicians.

The College have not condescended to notice the new articles which have been introduced into the practice of this country within the last four years, although they are prescribed throughout the country with the most decided advantage, in diseases for the cure of which no specific remedy has been discovered. The Iodine and its compounds, which have been found, by practitioners of eminence, beneficial in scrofula and in dispersing wenny substances; the Prussic acid, which has been highly extolled as a direct sedative in pulmonary consumption, hooping cough, &c.; Quinine, and Sulphate of Quinine, which have been successfully administered in intermittents, typhus fever, &c. &c ; the Diosma Crenata, which has succeeded in allaying morbid irritation of the bladder, rectum, and urethra; Morphine, and the Acetate of Morphine, which act as direct sedatives, producing serene sleep, without any bad secondary effects; the Tincture of Lupulin, for indigestion, &c.—although the most valuable remedies that have been discovered since the period of Hippocrates, have been totally disregarded by this body of philosophical Physicians!!! Independent of the insult they have thus offered to science, an insult which should be noticed by the legislature, it was their duty to give directions for preparing the active articles; as the prussic acid, the sulphate of quinine, the acetate of morphine, that they might be kept of a certain strength by all apothecaries. At present, every chemist has a mode of preparing them; and the prussic acid being in consequence of different degrees of strength, the dose of that sold by one chemist which might prove beneficial, might when obtained at the shop of another, prove fatal. The omission of these articles, points out the necessity of a revision of their charter, and of Government transferring the correction of the pharmacopœia, to men who are well acquainted with pharmacy, chemistry, and modern medicine, and who have a proper respect for discoveries that may prove beneficial to mankind; in fact, who are capable of appreciating their value. At no period, since the reign of the immortal Alfred, so deservedly panegyrised by Mr. Cline, has this country been governed by a more enlightened and liberal monarch and enlightened and liberal ministers, than at the present; and we are certain, that if a fair representation were made to the legislature, of the use the College of Physicians have made of their charter, the injurious effects of their illiberal bye-laws in checking the progress of the science of Medicine, their insulting conduct to the graduates of the Scotch Universities, &c. &c. &c. they would be compelled to adapt their bye-laws to the present improved state of medical science, and those respectable members who are now only allowed to practise under the sanction of a licence, would be admitted as members, and the doors opened to all who were found competent

to practise medicine. The Pharmacopœia alone, proves that their contracted restrictions are injurious to the public, by depriving it of the talents and services of those, whose admission would give them strength and dignity. That the public safety, the improvement of medicine, and the interest of the faculty, have suffered considerably under the government of the College of Physicians, we presume no respectable practitioner will deny. When the College cultivated medicine for the benefit of mankind, the source of admission was pure, and the Institution was, as it was intended to be by its founder, useful and flourishing; quackery was suppressed, ability distinguished, medicine improved, and the faculty united. When the College was instituted, medicine was at a low ebb; indeed so low, that the Legislature only required a physician to be acquainted with the classics, and they were accordingly examined as to their competency to *commence* practising, by the Bishop of London or Dean of St. Paul's. What was then deemed medical education, is *now* folly. Medicine, for the last fifty years, has been cultivated in London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, on a broad basis: it comprehends pathology, anatomy, physiology, surgery, chemistry, and pharmacy;—but at the English Universities, what is its basis, or what does it comprehend; by whom is it taught, or is it acquired by breathing *classic* air? We shall notice the modest claims of this body of philosophers, to a superior knowledge of medicine, in our next number, in a biographical sketch of their late Register, Dr. Harvey.

Of the New Pharmacopœia, two translations have already appeared, and others have been announced by respectable practitioners. Of the two which have appeared, one is by a Scotch Physician, and the other by Sir George Tuthill, a Fellow of the College, and one of the scientific Committee, to whom the revision of the Pharmacopœia was assigned. Sir George has contented himself by giving a literal translation without a comment!! The recollection of the critical castigation "Brother Powell" received from the editors of the Medical Reviews, for his *chemical* remarks and *pharmacological* annotations, has no doubt deterred the learned Knight from entering fully into the subject; for being a graduate of Cambridge, and one of the Committee, he must of course be equal to give pharmacological remarks, and to explain most satisfactorily the *reasons* of the committee for introducing the new formulæ, altering the names, &c. &c. &c.

The translation by the Scotch Physician is not only accurate, but interspersed with valuable practical remarks. Having also noticed the doses of each article, the best forms of administering them, and the diseases for the cure or alleviation of which they are employed, he has rendered a stupid production interesting and instructive.

The translations in the press are from Mr. Phillips and Mr. Sprague; the former will be chiefly *chemical*, for which we discover little opportunity for displaying his chemical knowledge.

SCARLET AND TYPHUS FEVERS.—Dr. Brown, who has lately visited different countries on the continent, informs us, that Dr. Hufeland, Dr. Hasper, Dr. Braun, and other eminent Physicians

of Germany, speak in very high terms of the beneficial effects of diluted chlorine in cases of scarlet, nervous, and typhus fevers. In the scarlet fever it has so uniformly succeeded in terminating the disease in a few days, in the practice of Dr. Braun, that he declares it to be a specific remedy for the malady; his extensive experience in its preventive powers, has satisfied him that it will secure the system against the matter of infection floating in the air, let it be ever so virulent. Dr. Brown has favoured us with the following formula, which, he says, is generally adopted by the German physicians, for making the dilute chlorine—

Take of Nitric Acid, one drachm;
Muriatic Acid, one drachm and a half;
Water, half a pint.—Mix.

Two table-spoonsful to be taken two or three times a day. Dr. Hasper cautions practitioners against the use of any preparation of mercury during the employment of the above mixture, on account of their occasioning obstinate and debilitating diarrhœa. In some cases he has known inflammation of the bowels to follow a small dose of calomel during the use of Chlorine, although given in a very diluted state.

FLATULENCY.—Dr. Good, author of a work entitled, "The Study of Medicine," recommends a simple tincture of the rhodium wood, as "an excellent remedy for flatulency, not only on account of its affording speedy relief, but for its tonic virtues, which," he says, "correct the disorder radically." In the dose of thirty to sixty drops, he has found it to be a warm, balsamic and grateful cordial. Mr. Sprague, a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons and the Medico-anatomical Society of Bristol, says, he has witnessed the beneficial effects of this tincture, in cases of flatulence, in conjunction with the infusion of cloves, syrup of ginger, &c. as the following mixture:—

Take of Ticture of Rhodium, three drachms;
Gum Arabic, six drachms;
Rub well together in a marble mortar, and add by degrees—
Infusion of Cloves, four ounces;
Syrup of Ginger, half an ounce.

The fourth part to be taken three or four times a day, according to the degree of flatus.

The rhodium wood possessing little astringent or bitter principle, we cannot consider it a *tonic* medicine; and when flatulence is the consequence of debility of the stomach, we would recommend three drachms of the tincture of lupulin, or of the alcaline tincture of fumitory, or six drachms of the compound tincture of rhatany, to be added to the above mixture, to promote its "*radical* effects." Flatulence in the stomach is one of the consequences of indigestion, and indigestion is the consequence either of a disordered stomach, gluttony, or of taking improper food. The treatment of flatulence must therefore depend on the nature of the disease of which it is the consequence. The assertion of Dr. Good, that a tincture of rhodium

will *radically* correct flatulence, is absurd; inasmuch as the diseases of the stomach, of which it is a consequence, is often diametrically opposite in their nature. Indigestion is the consequence both of increased excitement or feverish state of the stomach, from abuse of spirituous or vinous liquors or stimulating food, and diminished excitement or debility, which occurs in leucoplegmatic habits and worn out debauchees. Again, these opposite states of stomach are more frequently sympathetic of opposite complaints of the head, or some other part of the body. In all cases of flatulence, even when ulceration exists in the stomach, a stimulus, such as the tincture of rhodium or infusion of cloves, affords relief, by bringing the stomach into action, so as to expel the accumulated gas; but when the food has not been properly digested (termed indigestion) in consequence of the stomach being in a state of excitement, such remedies ultimately prove very injurious; and if regularly taken, will, sooner or later, produce an incurable organic disease of the pylorus or some other part of the stomach. The general recommendation of a stimulating medicine is, therefore, gross empiricism; and we may add, that nearly all the books which have been published on indigestion, are mere baits to entrap ignorant invalids, as much so, as Dr. Solomon's Guide to Health is for selling his pretended Balm of Gilead. In the few Pharmacopœias of Europe in which the rhodium wood has been introduced, different Linnæan names are given to it. In one, it is stated to be the *rhodiola rosea*, of Linnæus, and in another the *genistra canariensis*. Some have supposed it to be the Aspalathus, an article held in high esteem by some of the ancients, as a balsamic cordial and stomachic, but with respect to their being one and the same article, the ancients themselves disagree; Dioscorides, meaning by this appellation the *wood* of a certain shrub freed from the bark, and Galen the *bark* of a root. The oil of the Rhodium wood is employed as a perfume, and by rat-catchers, who say that rats are so partial to the odour, that it will attract all that are within a quarter of a mile to one spot. Of late years it has fallen so much into disuse, that few chemists keep it.

INTERMITTENT FEVER.—Mr. Houlton, of Grove Place, Lisson Green, states, in a letter to Dr. Copland, that he has found the Peruvian bark, administered in a *dry* form, and at the same time blistering the spine, to succeed in curing intermittent fevers which had resisted the usual treatment He commenced the blistering system by applying a "small blister between the shoulders on the approach of the *cold* stage, and another every six hours down the course of the spine, until after the time the next paroxysm should have returned." Mr. Houlton candidly acknowledges that he is "disposed to attribute the benefit derived from this blistering treatment, more to its engaging the attention of the patient by its continued action, than to counter-irritation." If the ingenious surgeon employed these remedies to amuse or divert the mind of his patient, the motive is indeed somewhat novel. Application of stimulants by friction along the course of the spine, is by no means an uncommon practice with some surgeons in Lincolnshire, in cases of obstinate

ague; not with the idea of producing counter-irritation, to relieve visceral congestion or irritation, or to amuse the mind, but to stimulate the spinal nerves; and whoever considers the connexion of those nerves with the viscera, and the state of the viscera in cases of ague, will not condemn the practice. It is a disordered state of the viscera which renders intermittent fever difficult of cure, and predisposes the system to the disease.

The mode of exhibiting bark in a *dry* state, adopted by Mr. Houlton, is in combination with gingerbread, made "by mixing equal parts of yellow Peruvian bark and flour spiced with ginger and caraway seeds, and made up with the ingredients in the mode used for what is called thick gingerbread." Of this Mr. Houlton directs a piece of the size of a walnut to be taken a few hours before the fit is expected. One dose Mr. H. found in many cases to put an end to the disease; and in other cases in which the Peruvian bark, given in the usual manner, had failed, it was followed by happy results. His patients took it without any disgust; and so convinced were they of its efficacy, that when the supply became short, they were ready to contend for it, and considered those favoured to whom it was given. Mr. Houlton believes, that bark taken this way, "as it must be well imbued with saliva before it can be swallowed, is less oppressive to the stomach, as well as more agreeable to the palate, than when given in substance in the common vehicles." On this mode of giving the Peruvian bark, Dr Copland makes the following remarks:—"A great share of the advantages is doubtless to be attributed to the *warm* aromatics with which the bark was combined. I have always found," says he, "the efficacy of this admirable remedy to be greatly promoted, especially in the treatment of intermittents, when unattended with organic disease, by adding to it *warm* aromatic spices and stimulants. This combination also, always tends to prevent the bark from disagreeing with the stomach; and much larger doses of it may be taken in this manner, *even* when the stomach is weak and irritable." Really we see no reason for making these remarks; for the practice of administering bark with "*warm* aromatics" (are there *cold* aromatics?) "*and* stimulants" (are not aromatics stimulants?) has been general with apothecaries for the last thirty years, *even* when the stomach is *weak* and *irritable*, a condition of stomach which we should have supposed rather to indicate the propriety of an aromatic than otherwise. The novel part of Mr. Houlton's practice, and on which he has made a comment worthy the attention of a reviewer, is the mastication of the bark, so as to impregnate it with saliva. Such impregnation, "doubtless," not only reconciles it to the stomach, but promotes its digestion, if not absorption into the system; for we believe modern physiologists are satisfied that the saliva differs little from the gastric juice, and that an impregnation of it promotes digestion. We have heard intelligent men, subject to indigestion and constipation, say that they have derived more benefit from masticating Peruvian bark or rhubarb root, than taking them in any vehicle either of *warm* or *cold* aromatics.

THE NEW MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL PHARMACOPŒIA.—The recommendation of this work by the Lecturers on Surgery in London,—the rapidity with which it has passed through two editions, and the increasing demand for it,—have encouraged the author not only to examine the Pharmacopœias of the Hospitals of London and Paris, but to apply to the Surgeons of the provincial Infirmaries for copies of the prescriptions which they have found most beneficial in their practice, to enrich the new edition which appeared on the first instant, and the results have certainly enabled him to bring into a small compass a great mass of very valuable practical information, which is not to be collected even from all the works on chirurgical medicine, one hundred of the formulæ having never been published. In this new edition, he has introduced directions for making the mineral acid baths, sulphurious fumigation, and a formula for the anodyne suppository, a very important remedy in cases of morbid irritation or organic diseases of the rectum, prostate gland, urethra, &c. The practical remarks on each Recipe will prove instructive to junior surgeons, and those practitioners who are not acquainted with the compositions.

The author prefaces this new edition with the following remarks, the truth of which must appear so evident to every reader possessed of common sense, as to render the most plausible sophistry of the legitimate class of physicians nugatory:—"If any reader should suppose that the author has encouraged surgeons to encroach on the province of the physician, by inserting prescriptions which belong to it, his reply is, that long experience as a general practitioner, both in private and hospital practice, has convinced him, that the theory and principles of physic and surgery are indivisible; since they constitute, as Mr. Pearson observes, "*one* and the *same* science." It is unfortunate for the afflicted with local diseases requiring surgical aid, that so many young practitioners imagine that when they have learnt the art of dressing ulcers, applying bandages, and performing operations with a little dexterity, they are accomplished surgeons. If a conclusion so erroneous had been confined to the vulgar and illiterate, the progress of *scientific* surgery would have suffered little interruption; but if young minds are directed to those objects as the *only* important matter upon which their faculties are to be exercised, if the gross information of sense constitute the sum of their knowledge, little more can be expected from such a mode of study than servile imitation and impudent empiricism. Of late years, constitutional treatment of surgical cases has been cultivated on a broad basis, and at this time, is arrived to such a degree of perfection, as nearly, if not entirely, to embrace the whole practice of physic. The distinction between physic and surgery made by some physicians, who consider themselves *legitimate* practitioners, has been justly ridiculed by the editor of the Gazette of Health, as not only preposterous, but as operating against the public good, by checking the progress of constitutional or medical surgery. The modern surgeon totally disregards distinctions, which are founded on the spirit of trade, or on some ancient privileges still more disgraceful—the spirit of monachism or monopoly. The modern surgeon

is satisfied that internal and external inflammation, or organic disease, is governed by the same laws; and having the recovery of his patient only at heart, or regarding his reputation more than the accumulation of wealth, he will not submit to be governed by a set of pompous ignorant practitioners, whose ends are obtained on receiving the fee. The experience of the author has satisfied him, that no disease is entirely local, but that those which are so denominated, are more or less connected with a disturbed or unhealthy state of the constitution, and that the results of accidents are greatly dependant on the general system, and consequently, and as Dr. Dods of Worcester observes, are to be cured by a judicious combination of constitutional and topical treatment. The surgeon, therefore, who consigns the *constitutional* management of a surgical case, to a physician unacquainted with surgery, does his patient a material injury, and risks his own reputation: for the probability is, that by subjecting him to a treatment founded on some favourite theory, the disease under the management of the surgeon may be aggravated or his remedies counteracted. If the physician be not acquainted with the pathognomonic characters of surgical cases, how can he be competent to the *constitutional* treatment of them? Assuredly the treatment must depend on the nature of the surgical disease. The modern surgeon, despising empiricism, will not acknowledge the right claimed by some ignorant, although legitimate physicians, to interfere with the constitutional management of surgical cases, and treats with contempt the ridiculous distinctions they have made between physical and surgical cases. The surgeon of integrity, will not countenance such a disgraceful traffic as that of making merchandize of his fellow-creatures, afflicted with disease."

The author has condescended to notice the *liberality* of a reviewer:—"The editor," says he, "of a Medical Review, a Dr. Granville, lately observed, on noticing this work, that when books of prescriptions are in demand, the inference is, that the medical men dispersed throughout the country have not been properly educated. The practitioner of experience and observation, will give the doctor the credit of having published the most silly remark that has appeared in any medical work. It is by experience only that the value of a composition can be ascertained; for on mixing different pharmaceutical articles together, new combinations are formed, the effects of which are only to be ascertained by trial. Even compositions, which are deemed by chemists unchemical, have been found very beneficial as topical applications. The practitioner, therefore, who collects the compounds which the most able surgeons have found useful, not only does the profession but the public an essential service. The *learned* doctor did the author the favour to give two prescriptions from this work, to enable his readers to form an opinion of it.—The first was, the compound electuary of black pepper, in the name of which, the adjective did not agree with its substantive; instead of Electurarium compositum, it was printed Electuarium composit*a*. In the former edition, the name was *confectio* composita; and the author, on substituting Electuarium in the place of confectio, neglected to alter the

adjective! The other prescription was a compound with *Prussic acid*, an article Dr. Granville takes upon himself the credit of having introduced into the practice of this country, although the author had employed it before the doctor even settled in the country. The doctor states, that he took the prescriptions *at random!!*

"The selection of the formulæ for this new edition, and the remarks on them," he observes, "were made by a practitioner who has been actively engaged in practice and in accumulating facts for 35 years; and he flatters himself that the additions the work has received, will, in a practical point of view, be deemed, by competent judges, very valuable. On going over the pages, after the work was printed, he has discovered a few errors, but as they are orthographical only, they are scarcely worthy of notice;—such as *cerassus* for *cerasus*, p. 38; *aluminis* for *alumenæ*, the former signifying of alum, and the latter of alumen, a distinction which modern chemistry renders necessary.

"In order that the formulæ may have a fair trial, the Author hopes his readers will be particular in employing not only *genuine* articles, but genuine articles of the *best quality*. All the extracts, which, in chirurgical medicine, are very valuable preparations, should be prepared, as directed by Mr. Barry, *in vacuo*. If the quicksilver in the mercurial ointment and blue pill, be not properly divided by tritature, or if the division be expedited by the balsam of sulphur or turpentine, which, with some druggists, is a common practice; or if the colour be heightened by black-lead, which is not an unusual practice with those who do not employ the proper quantity of quicksilver, their compounds will not have a fair trial."

This work is a most valuable *multum in parvo*. Although the author has enlarged the new Edition thirty-two pages, by the addition of about one hundred new formulæ, and of several diseases to the Index of Remedies, he has reduced the price of it from *5s. 6d.* to *5s.* This fact, and the trouble he has taken to collect formulæ from the most respectable sources, shew satisfactorily, that his object is more to benefit his fellow creatures, by diffusing valuable practical information, than to enrich himself.

The author has also added, a list of the new Names of Drugs the College of Physicians have adopted in their New Pharmacopœia. The work he has dedicated to Professor Duncan, of Edinburgh, and John Abernethy, Esq. of London, practitioners who are certainly competent to form an opinion of its real merits.

SCROFULA.—For the following article on the effects of Iodine in scrofula, we are indebted to Mr. Alexander Delisser, a scientific surgeon, of Judd Street, Brunswick Square.

The benefit mankind in general derives from the advancement of a science, like that of medicine, which lessens the sufferings of poor humanity in proportion to the extension of a knowledge of it, is greatly promoted by the frequent interchange of sentiments, and force of example; and of late years, the establishment of Medical Journals has tended much to awaken that spirit of improvement, by the easy means of communicating useful *practical* information; while it serves to enlighten the understanding of that part of the community, to

whom the lives of our fellow-creatures afflicted with disease, are entrusted. It ought, therefore, to be considered a duty incumbent on every member of the liberal profession of medicine, to diffuse, without delay, any knowledge which he may acquire from experience and observation, that it may be applied to alleviate the sufferings of those who may be similarly afflicted.

Scrofula is a disease which often eludes the most powerful medicines, and evades the skill of the most experienced physician; at various times having given rise to hypothesis, and in particular, of its depending upon an acid acrimony of the fluids, consequently alkaline substances were frequently prescribed, with the intention to correct and neutralize the acid humours; but whatever may give rise to scrofula, in all probability it proceeds from a debility of constitution first affecting the lymphatic system.

A variety of medicines have been recommended for the cure of scrofula, but none appear to be more efficacious than Iodine; and were I labouring under that most appalling and distressing disease, I should look for an alleviation of my sufferings to that remedy alone; although, in speaking of its merits in my former communication to the Editor of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, I was guarded against extolling its virtues, until further experience had better enabled me to speak of its effects. The great success I daily meet with, and the many individuals I have restored to the full enjoyment of health, are sufficient proofs to establish a conviction of the importance of Iodine: but while speaking of its merits, a probable explanation becomes necessary as to its action on the animal economy, to which no other can be offered than the facts themselves lead us to conjecture, that it uniformly excites and stimulates the lymphatic system, at the same time produces a disturbed action of the nervous functions: but from what cause arises the nervous excitability, deserves our most serious consideration, and to explain which we must refer to general principles. When a given quantity of Iodine has been introduced into the constitution, and previously to its disturbing the nervous system, it invariably excites the action of the heart and arteries, through which agency it operates on the brain; therefore it appears at first to be taken up by the absorbents, and imparting a stimulus to them, is from thence carried into the general mass of the circulating fluid: this appears to be the most probable and feasible explanation for the application of practical purposes.

I admit, with the Editor of the Gazette of Health, that scrofula is not to be soon reduced or conquered by powerful attacks; still there is sufficient evidence to convince any man, as far as facts go, which are stubborn things, that the scrofulous diathesis has often been reduced, or subdued, by the powerful agency of medicines, on principles with which we are unacquainted.

> "Tell me, ye learned heads, if such there be,
> Nature's profound and secret mystery."

The case of mine, published in the last number of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, may with propriety be noticed as an example.

l child three years of age, born of highly scrofulous parents, in ose family the disease had been inherent for a series of years, ng afflicted with enlargements of the cervical, parotid and in- nal glands, with a constant discharge of purulent matter from left ear, in less than two months was restored to perfect health; ost every remedy that had been recommended by ancient and dern writers, had been exhibited for her relief, both by men of nce and empirics, without affording any benefit; and while I pleasure in describing the relief the child received from the ser- s of so valuable a medicine, it may be necessary to state, that quantity of Iodine taken far exceeded what is usually given in h cases; still I am persuaded, had I not persevered in augmenting dose of the medicine, and had abandoned it at the quantity laid n by Dr. Coindet, my patient to this day would have continued rey to the disease.

The Tincture of Iodine, used on this occasion, was a saturated tion in rectified spirits. Dr. Coindet directs forty-eight grains Iodine to be dissolved in ten drachms of rectified spirit, bearing equal proportion to that taken in the above case, and is also ac- ding to Majendie's formula.

In consequence of having found the Iodine sold by chemists much lterated (in one instance with the rust of iron), it has been my form practice to submit that I intend giving my patients to tain tests, which, by becoming generally known to the profession, y, in some measure, prevent a most valuable medicine being ught into disrepute, as many others have been, from the impo- on of the common venders of drugs. Whether the article be uine or otherwise, may be ascertained by the following process. few grains of the suspected Iodine being thrown into a wine ss, pour on it a couple of drachms of sulphuric acid; if the dine be genuine, not the slightest effect is produced: sulphuric l has not the least action on the Iodine, nor will the acid be dis- oured by it. Iodine is slightly acted on by nitric, but more so muriatic, acid. When spirit of turpentine is poured on Iodine, ame is produced, with an escape of red fumes.

odine has a specific action on the uterus, so as to excite the nstrual discharge. Having noticed this effect in several in- ces, it naturally suggested the propriety of employing it as an nenagogue, and the two following cases are sufficient to prove t it is entitled to such character:—

Elizabeth Tyler, of Pentonville, aged 24, had suffered from sup- ssion of the menstrual discharge for many months, notwithstand- she had taken the various medicines usually prescribed in such a e. Her legs had latterly become œdematous, her appetite bad, h a constant inclination to eject her food, and general debility. his state my patient continued for several weeks, taking small es of steel wine. Having gone through the whole catalogue of nenagogues, I resolved to try the use of Iodine, and to relinquish steel wine, and all other means. I directed five grains of Iodine, l as much conserve of roses as was necessary to form two pills, e taken at bed-time. The next morning I visited her, expecting

to find some degree of disturbance of the stomach; but she complained only of slight sickness, and pain across the forehead, with trembling agitation of the body. The urine was high-coloured, and the pulse was more frequent. I recommended a warm bath, and, on the alternate day, the medicine to be repeated. On my next visit, with unspeakable delight, she informed me she had "become unwell," in which way she continued four or five days. She then went into the country, and has ever since menstruated at her regular periods. The second dose of Iodine produced an ulceration of the mouth, with offensive breath. The agitation of the body, with the other symptoms, subsided, from the use of a decoction of bark; and she is at present in perfect health.

The next case, although not so decisive, is sufficiently illustrative of its powers as an emmenagogue. Jane Bourke, aged 15, with the maxillary gland considerably enlarged, applied for my opinion, as to the treatment, &c. of her complaint. She had been for some time under a notorious impostor, who pretended to cure glandular swellings. The quack having promised success for a certain sum, to be advanced previously to using his medicines, her poor credulous parents acceded to his extortion, and the girl being placed under his care, in less than a fortnight, from the use of large doses of mercury, was highly salivated. At this time I was requested to see her. She informed me, the gland had increased to twice its former size since the use of the mercury. I prescribed the following gargle to be frequently used:—

Take of Borate of Soda, two drachms;
Honey, half an ounce;
Tincture of Myrrh, three drachms;
Water, eight ounces.

A small dose of sulphate of magnesia was taken occasionally. She went to her friends in the country, by my advice; and when she returned, which was in about six weeks, the effects of the mercury being removed, I began the use of a grain of Iodine, three times a day, made into a pill with conserve of roses. She had not taken more than twenty grains, before the catamenia appeared for the first time. The pills were then discontinued for a few days. The quantity has been gradually increased, and she at present takes three grains three times a day, the gland being rubbed with the following ointment:—

Take of Iodine, half a drachm;
Hog's Lard, one ounce.

The quantity of the size of a nutmeg, to be well rubbed over the surface night and morning. There has been no irritation produced on the part, nor is there any other constitutional effect, than the great frequency of the menstrual discharge. She has taken 220 grains of Iodine, and has used half an ounce of the ointment. The glandular enlargement has considerably diminished, and, in all probability, will be reduced to its usual size, in the course of time. She complains of a slight pain in the gullet; and, on pressing the thyroid, or cricoid cartilages, a degree of soreness along the throat is experienced.

I offer the evidence of these cases as important, and in the hope of their proving of practical utility. That the treatment may be equally beneficial in the practice of others, so as to relieve invalids labouring under so unfortunate a disease, whose sufferings have been greatly increased, from a belief that small is the resource of medicine to palliate their affliction, is my sincere wish; and happy shall I be to find that, in similar cases, Iodine has been administered with the same results.

In all ages, it has been the practice of mankind to communicate their observations for the benefit of their fellow-creatures. Herodotus speaks of an eastern nation, among whom it was a law, that whenever any cure was performed, both the method, and an account of the disease, were to be fixed in some public place, for the advantage of others, disposed to profit by the information; which benign example does credit to any age, as the elucidation of medical science tends to lessen the sufferings and tortures of human life, and allows us to enjoy more fully the blessings of Divine Providence.

In bringing these remarks to a conclusion, let me hope that they may tend to throw additional light on a subject, enveloped in mystery, and which has hitherto given rise to such various and opposite conjectures. It behoves us to discriminate, and to draw our inferences from facts, supported by the investigation of truth, and by irresistible examples, that we may avoid either credulity or scepticism.

55, *Judd Street, Brunswick Square, Feb.* 25, 1824.

One fact in medicine is unquestionably more valuable than one thousand theories. Although we are disposed to pay great respect to the opinion of Mr. Delisser, and should be governed by the results of experience; yet we cannot advise our readers to commence the internal use of Iodine in the quantity Mr. Delisser, and we believe we may say, Mr. Delisser only, has exhibited it. We advise them to commence with twenty drops of the tincture, and to increase the dose cautiously, till it produces slight nausea. Mr. Delisser, being aware that patients are differently affected by this, as well as every other medicine, according to peculiarity of constitution, technically termed idiosyncracy, he will excuse this little addition to his communication. If many medicines have fallen undeservedly into discredit, in consequence of not having been given in sufficient doses, as a late professor of medicine very properly observes, "to touch the system;" and as that effect often depends on peculiarity of constitution, it is impossible to lay down a *general* rule for the exhibition of any medicine. The reputation of a medicine may suffer from too timid as well as too bold a practice. The results of Mr. Delisser's experience with Iodine will be highly valued by every scientific surgeon, and those who estimate facts.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL TRANSACTIONS (continued from p. 809.)—*Diseases of the Nose and Face.*—The remarks of Mr. Earle, on the baneful effects of snuff on the nostrils and upper lip, and of segars on the parts of the lips with which they come in contact during smoking, we have noticed in our Ninety-seventh Number. The nostrils, and particularly the lower margin of them, are

liable to an obstinate slow phagædenic ulceration resembling cancer, termed *noli me tangere*, which is much aggravated by a catarrhal affection, and by whatever disturbs the functions of the digestive organs. Mr. Earle states, that he *successfully* removed a portion of diseased skin from the right side of the end of the nose of an old lady, who, at the time he communicated the case to the Medical and Chirurgical Society, was perfectly free from any appearance of the disease, being nine years after the operation was performed. In this case, the old remedy, the arsenical paste, had been employed without effect. It is somewhat astonishing to us, that a practitioner, who is apparently alive to all the improvements in surgery, should not have given the arseniate of iron, and the phosphate and oxy-phosphate of iron, a trial, as recommended by the experienced and scientific surgeon, Mr. Carmichael, of Dublin. In the *noli me tangere*, we have known the topical application of the arseniate, with the internal use of the oxy-phosphate of iron, in a full dose, to succeed in checking the progress of the disease, and in a few weeks to effect a cure. When we attended the practice of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, about twenty-six years ago, we asked Sir James Earle, the father of Mr. Earle, at the time he was directing a preparation of arsenic to be applied to this species of ulceration, why surgeons did not remove the disease by the knife; or, in other words, why they did not amputate the diseased extremity of the nose? Sir James replied, that he knew of no other reason, than that the operation had never been performed or suggested. "Other portions of the skin of the face," says Mr. Earle, "are frequently the seat of intractable ulcers, which may, in many instances, be traced to local irritation. Thus," says he, "I have known diseases induced in the neighbourhood of the eye, by the continued application of a morbid secretion from the meibomian glands, from the constant flow of tears, in obstructions of the nasal duct, and from the rheumy eyes of old people." In two instances of disease, occurring at the inner canthus of the eye, Mr. Earle successfully dissected out the morbid portion of the skin, and the patient remained permanently well.

Many instances of formidable disease of the skin of the upper and lower lip, Mr. Earle thinks he has traced to the irritation of shaving. It is certainly a very common reply to enquirers into the origin of such complaints, that it commenced from a slight wound from a blunt or dirty razor. Each time the shaving operation is repeated, the wound is irritated; and if, to avoid it, the beard is allowed to grow around it, the hair becomes so matted by the discharge, as to render it impossible to keep the wound clean. In such cases Mr. E. recommends the hair to be removed by a small pair of sharp scissars. "This," says he, "will enable us to dress the wound more closely, and will often succeed in removing the complaint." If the disease should remain stationary, or spread, he recommends it to be removed by the knife, the fused potass, or the arsenical paste. In one case, Mr. Earle found it necessary to eradicate the hairs, after which the irritation subsided, and the ulcer healed. The exposure of the face to the vicissitudes of the weather, Mr. Earle thinks, disposes the skin to disease. We are of opinion, that the compositions sold by

perfumers for shaving, act more injuriously on the skin than exposure to atmospheric changes, or slight injuries from a "blunt or dirty razor;" for all those we have examined contain an excess of caustic alkali; and some are so powerfully impregnated with it, that if they are allowed to to remain on the skin a few minutes, they *will* produce considerable inflammation. Another circumstance which disposes the skin to disease, by rendering it tender, is the employment of warm water during shaving. The best soap for this operation is the almond or the common yellow soap, over the surface of which a little olive oil may be applied, to make a mild lather. If the edge of the razor be kept in a proper state (by the occasional use of the oxalate of tin, &c. recommended for this purpose in a late number,) the beard may be removed with as much facility with cold as with warm lather, even when it is very strong. The part after shaving should be washed with a little almond powder instead of soap. The practice of washing the skin with a spirituous lotion, as aquabusade, or lavender water, is decidedly bad, the essential oils they contain, stimulating the skin after the evaporation of the spirit.

Diseases of the Tongue.—When disease takes place in the tongue, the motion, during talking, mastication, or drinking; the mechanical action of irregular or decayed teeth, and the chemical action of articles of food, and even of air passing into and from the lungs, tend to keep up irritation; and their continued operation, sooner or later, according to the general health of the patient, induces a disease which exhibits all the alarming characters of cancer, for the cure of which, extirpation of the diseased part by the knife, ligature, or actual cautery, has been advocated by different writers, and many cases are recorded in which these different plans of treatment have proved successful. Mr. Earle, however, thinks the *period* of life at which many of them occurred, and the *frequent* success which followed the operations, are sufficient to create a reasonable scepticism of their being cases of true cancer. He does not however question the propriety of such operations, when the whole of the morbid part can be effectually removed with safety, although it must be acknowledged that such operations are far more formidable than when seated in the lip. "Not unfrequently, however," observes Mr. Earle, "do cases occur, in which the disease includes parts which are beyond the reach of an operation. Under such circumstances, it is most fortunate that many of these affections will yield to a proper combination of local and constitutional treatment, even where the characters of the disease bear a very close analogy to cancer." Under the head of 'Local Treatment,' Mr. Earle first places the removal, as much as possible, of all local stimuli, such as decayed or projecting teeth, and to protect the tongue, by covering the teeth with wax, or soft lint; to avoid speaking, and occasionally to cleanse the mouth with a stream of water, or a medicated liquor, from an elastic gum bottle instead of gargling or washing the mouth by any muscular effort, the employment of the most mild inirritating food, and, in bad cases, the prohibition from the use of solid food; substituting in its room milk, and strong broths, which may be thrown into the stomach through a tube passed

down the œsophagus, (as Mr. Read's stomach syringe,) and even in some cases introduced through the nostril. Such a plan of treatment certainly requires much firmness and resolution on the part of the patient; but Mr. Earle confidently states, that it will be occasionally followed with complete success. When the glands are enlarged, he recommends, in addition to the above treatment, repeated application of leeches under the chin. As topical applications to the ulcerated surface, he has found a solution of nitrate of silver, or *very much* diluted nitric acid, in the proportion of three or four drops to the ounce, and the occasional use of a solution of arsenic, to answer best. "Any of these," says he, "may be applied to the ulcer by means of a syringe." This mode of applying caustic application he has found to succeed much better than "keeping lint, moistened with any lotion, constantly applied to the part." In two instances of apparently very malignant diseases of the tongue, Mr. Earle has found the above treatment to succeed. In one case of irritative vesicles of the tongue, in a boy at the Foundling Hospital, he found a quieting local treatment, and the internal use of the extract of henbane, at short intervals, gradually increased to the extent of one drachm daily, to succeed. Mercury, in all such cases, when administered "in any quantity," he has found to aggravate the disease. The application of the pulp of carrots, he says, has proved serviceable, by cleansing the ulcers, allaying irritation, and apparently inducing a more healthy disposition. He recommends the patient to keep a quantity of this pulp by his side, and frequently to change that in his mouth, which will, independent of its medicinal virtues, prove useful, by "restraining him from speaking." A mixture of a weak solution of myrrh, extract of hemlock (made *in vacuo*), opium, and charcoal, finely powdered, we have found much more efficacious in deterging the ulcerations, and allaying irritation, than the old application of the pulp of carrots, which is by no means a pleasant one; but the most efficacious application is, a strong native ferruginous water, as that of the spa near Brighton. In two cases of malignant ulcerations of the integuments of the face, and one of the tongue, with strong cancerous characters, we have found the topical and internal use of this mineral water, aided probably by sea air, to succeed.

Mr. Earle, in his Dissertation on Ulcerations of the Integuments of the Face and of the Tongue, like other surgeons of *high reputation*, frequently speaks of "*morbid action*." A city physician observing to an intelligent lady well acquainted with chemistry, that the pain she experienced about the neck of the uterus, arose from *morbid action*, the lady asked him what he meant by *morbid* action? "Why, my dear Madam," replied the doctor, with a great degree of self-sufficiency, "*morbid* action signifies an unhealthy action, not the *natural* action of the parts."—"Surely, Doctor," exclaimed the lady, "you cannot suppose I am so ignorant as not to know that a *morbid* action is not a *healthy* one. When you attribute my sufferings to *morbid* action, you must mean something by the term.—In what *part* of the seat of my disease does the *morbid* action take place, or is it a *chemical* action?"—"Why, Madam," said the doctor, with a little less confidence, "it certainly is not a *chemical*

action, but an action which a *mobile* part takes upon itself in preference to its *proper* action." "I wish to know," observed the lady, "what particular part is *morbidly* disturbed. I suspect it must be in the nerves, from the acute pain I feel, the nerves being the only parts of the machine which are sensible." "You are right, Madam," replied the doctor with a smile. "Then, Doctor," observed the lady, "are nerves *mobile?*" "Not like muscular fibres indeed," replied the doctor; "but by the term *morbid action*, medical men understand a great deal, although they cannot define it." "Ah, Doctor," said the lady, shaking her head," "I see how it is;—it is a technical expression to stop inquiry, and to cloak ignorance." "Indeed, Madam," replied the doctor, with a long countenance, and a corresponding shake of the head, "you are now right." "I am sorry for it," observed the lady; "for when you referred my pains to morbid action, I really thought you were acquainted with the *nature* of my unfortunate affliction, and that you would consequently adopt a treatment which would subdue it. I have now lost a source of great pleasure by your candid confession." "Well, Madam," replied the doctor, "you should not have so closely interrogated me."——Another physician was called in, but the "*morbid* action" continued to prevail over the *natural* one, notwithstanding the co-operation of the powerful auxiliaries of blue pill, sarsaparilla and hemlock, till the vital powers ceased. If every invalid were as intelligent as this unfortunate lady, the legitimate and technical classes of physicians would be under the necessity of employing their ingenious minds to the nostrum trade, or some other *respectable* pursuit to obtain the means of support.

Surgeons make a distinction between the morbid sensibility of nervous and the morbid irritability of muscular fibres or membranes, attendant on acute inflammation and on chronic disease. When a part has remained in a thickened or indurated state for some time, it is probable that a peculiar kind of vitality takes place in it, and that the "morbid action" is in fact dependant on that alteration. It does indeed become a kind of parasitical animal, which after a certain period extends its devastations. It is probably on this account that applications, which destroy the life of more perfect parasites, as the worm, &c., prove beneficial in those diseases, as the native chalybeate water, preparations of iron, caustic, mercury, viz. by destroying their vitality. The next article worthy of notice in the Transactions, is the

Chimney Sweeper's Cancer.—This disease, termed also, by the celebrated Pott, Soot-wart, is invariably produced by the action of a peculiar poison contained in soot, probably of the same nature as that imparted to water by roasted corn or coffee berries, noticed in our last number. Mr. Earle has communicated one case of this disease, which occurred in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, under the care of his father. The diseased parts were removed, and the patient recovered, although the inguinal glands were tumefied from absorption of matter. The result of this case proves that the disease was local. Mr. Earle, however, thinks that the soot would not produce the disease, unless a strong *predisposition* to it existed. Probably

an unhealthy condition of the system, or peculiar rigidity of fibres, may favour the operation of the poison of soot. We have known it occur in subjects which were apparently in possession of good health; and the circumstance of its being a rare disease among chimney sweepers, very likely arises more from a degree of cleanliness, than a want of a certain predisposition. The next case is

Destruction of the Brain of a Fœtus.—A Mr. Hammond, finding that the pelvis of a young woman was too small to allow the head of the fœtus to pass, performed the usual operation of opening the head, in order to reduce its size. The brain being "*completely* broken down, and 2 ounces taken out," the body was soon introduced into the world. "The child," he says, "immediately cried *heartily*, breathed in a *perfectly* healthy manner, and with the *usual apparent strength*. It passed fæces and urine, and for *twelve hours* the functions of life seemed to be carried on in the usual healthy manner, the child frequently crying loudly. The wound continuing to bleed, Mr. Hammond applied over it a little lint and adhesive plaster. After living twelve hours in apparently good health, it began to droop, looking very pale, and in ten hours more it died—an event which Mr. Hammond attributes more to the loss of blood than of brain!!! On opening the head, after death, Mr. Hammond found the dura mater "*considerably* torn; the brain, throughout both hemispheres, torn and broken down, so as to appear a mere mass, without organization, and *where the ventricles* should have been, was filled by clotted blood"!!! To have completed this case, Mr. Hammond should have said that it's vision and hearing were perfect. Well, well,—we have heard of living men having no brains—

"We thought so once, but now we know it."

—Miss Mac Avoy, of Liverpool, we are told, could read with her fingers and hear with her toes; and lately, we are told, on as good authority, that an illegitimate child was born in Cheshire, with the name of the father in the eyes. Such cases would add greatly to the interest of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions; and we do not see why Mr. Travers and his friend, Mr. Hammond, should not quiz the Society with one of these extraordinary cases, as well as that of a fœtus living twenty-two hours after the operation of embryotomy, in which the whole of the cerebrum was disorganized!!!

Dr. Muller, of Vienna, informs us that Dr. Manchini, professor of anatomy at Naples, has lately divided the symphisis pubis in two cases of protracted labour, from a preternaturally small pelvis, with complete success. After the operation, the patients were put into a warm bath, and the delivery left to nature. During the last pains, the ends of the separated bones were found to be an inch and a half from each other. In the first case, the bones did not unite in consequence of the operator having neglected to bring them into contact!! Both children were born alive. We have seen Mr. Abernethy divide the symphisis pubis of a dead person, and although the ends of the bones were forcibly separated from each other upwards of an inch, it did not appear that the capacity of the pelvis was increased by it, the distance from the pubis to the sacrum being proportion-

ately diminished. There is unquestionably a great difference between the effects of the operation on the dead and the living body, the ligamentous bands which connect the bones to the sacrum being much relaxed during labour. Some accoucheurs in France and Germany have denied this fact; but it was ascertained in a very satisfactory manner by the late Dr. Clarke, by examination of the ligamentous connection of the pelvic bones of several females who died a few hours after delivery. The numerous cases of the success of dividing the symphisis pubis, which have been published on the continent, prove that it is free from danger, and that many infants have been saved by it, which must otherwise have been sacrificed to save the lives of their mothers. The principal lecturers on midwifery and anatomy of this country, have condemned it, on the supposition that the capacity of the pelvis is not increased by it; it has, in our opinion, been undeservedly neglected. The next article, is introduced under the head of a case of

Wen, in which iodine was successfully employed by the direction of Dr. H. S. Roots, a scientific physician of London. The patient was nineteen years of age, and evidently of a scrofulous habit. Both lobes of the thyroid gland were enlarged so as to form a tumour of the size of a moderate orange, flattened. When the Doctor first saw her, he ordered eight leeches to be applied to the part twice a week, and fifteen grains of carbonate of soda to be taken three times a day.

Although the patient steadily followed the Doctor's instructions three months, the tumour remained unaltered. The Doctor then prescribed the burnt sponge three times a day, and the application of eight leeches once a fornight. After following this advice three months, without deriving any advantage from it, the Doctor recommended gentle friction with the soap liniment for a quarter of an hour every night and morning, and to persist in the use of burnt sponge. This treatment proving as unsuccessful as the former modes, the Doctor thought of adapting the local treatment of passing through the tumour a seaton, as recommended by Dr. Quandri, in one of our early numbers; but having been present at a meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, when Dr. Roget read a letter from Dr. Corndet, "On the Curative effects of Iodine in cases of Wen," the Doctor determined to give it a trial in the case of his patient. He commenced with the ointment of the Hydriodate of Potass, made according to the following formula:

Take of Hydriodate of Potass, thirty-four grains;
White Wax, two drachms;
Hog's Lard, an ounce and a half.—Mix.

—Of this composition, he directed the size of a "garden bean to be rubbed into the tumour every night and morning, for ten minutes at each time." Although at the time he first prescribed this remedy, the tumour was evidently increasing, after using the ointment five weeks, he found, on measuring the neck, that it had diminished in circumference three quarters of an inch. The doctor then ordered the quantity of hydriodate of potass to be increased to forty-four grains, and desired her to discontinue its use, if inflammation should

take place in the tumour. After using the ointment five times, the tumour became tense and painful, and the skin inflamed. The ointment was then omitted, leeches applied, and a solution of Epsom salt administered. The inflammation rapidly subsided, and, in a week, she had recourse again to the ointment, the strength of which he shortly afterwards increased, by adding six grains of the hydriodate of potass. The tumour continuing gradually to decrease, he ordered her to take twenty drops of the tincture of iodine three times a day, in a glass of water. This addition to the use of the ointment completely succeeded in dispersing the tumour. Dr. Carter, of Canterbury, has employed the ointment of the hydriodate of potass in a case of enormous scrofulous enlargement of the mammary glands, with apparent advantage. In true schirrous tumours it has failed to produce any beneficial effect. In scrofulous enlargement of the glands of the neck, and thickening of ligaments, &c. of joints, it has proved highly beneficial, in conjunction with the internal use of the tincture of iodine, as employed by Dr. Roots. The articles on Dilitation of the Male Urethra, and subsequent Extraction of Calculi from the Bladder, by Dr. Kerrison; Cursory Remarks on Small Pox, subsequent to Vaccination, by Dr. Gregory; and on the comparative Virtues of different Kinds of Sarsaparilla, by Mr. Pope; we shall notice in our next number.

ULCERATION OF THE NOSE, &c.—Mr. Averill, a surgeon of Cheltenham, has published two cases of irritable, ill-conditioned, indolent ulcerations of the nose and face (which he considers similar to those we noticed in our last number, as successfully treated by Mr. Earle), in which the topical application of the nitric acid proved successful, after arsenic, and other caustics, with the internal use of a solution of the oxy-muriate of mercury, had failed. In the first case, the *strong* nitric acid was employed, by "painting the ulcerated surface over with it." A chemist, or a person acquainted with the instantaneous action of this powerful caustic on hair, would presume to ask the surgeon, what kind of brush he employed to paint the ulcerated surface! After this painting operation, Mr. A. says, he directed the parts to be covered with lint, wet with diluted nitric acid, in the following proportions:

Take of Nitric Acid, fifty drops;
Pure Water, two pounds.—Mix.

Mr. A. saw the patient four days after the "painting," when he found it caused sloughs over every ulcer, and *very considerable* inflammation in the surrounding parts, which were much swollen, and so irritable, that the application of the mixture of the nitric acid and water could no longer be borne; a warm poultice of oatmeal and beer was therefore ordered to be applied over the greater part of the face." After sloughing, the ulcers granulated in a healthy manner, and gradually healed. About twelve days after the application of the nitric acid, Mr. A. ordered one of the following powders to be taken twice a day:—

Take of Quicksilver with Chalk, one drachm;
Sub-carbonate of Soda, half an ounce.

Mix well together, and divide into twelve parts.

The second case occurred in Guy's Hospital, under the care of Sir Astley Cooper, Bart. The patient (Joseph Hester) was 18 years of age. The ulcers, which "were situated on the sides of the face *and* nose, the largest being rather bigger than a shilling," were superficial and scabby, and "had existed for nine years, during which time he had almost continually been making use of some application or other, and had taken a great variety of medicine without any apparent benefit." When he was taken into the hospital, a draught of a solution of arsenic with the decoction of bark, was ordered to be administered three times a day, and a poultice to be applied to the ulcerated parts. Six days afterwards, "the scabs being removed, the parts were *painted over* with *undiluted* nitric acid, and again poulticed." The application of the acid produced severe inflammation, attended with very considerable swelling of the face, pain in the head, and fever, which, soon after cupping and purging, subsided. In the course of fourteen days, the parts destroyed by the nitric acid sloughed off, when a lotion of the sulphate of zinc was applied. The surfaces looked healthy, and continued to heal; so that in ten days "there was scarcely any appearance of disease." Sir Astley, however, deemed another "painting with the strong nitric acid necessary," in order the more effectually to eradicate this long-standing evil. The parts on which the ulcers had been situated, were accordingly repainted with the acid, and afterwards poulticed. The face again swelled, but no fever came on to render medicine necessary. The poultice was continued till the destroyed parts had sloughed. The edges of the ulcers, Mr. A. says, "appeared *tumidly* thick." The zinc lotion was reapplied, under which the "sores healed astonishingly fast," and in a few days he was discharged perfectly cured.

Our readers acquainted with surgery, will discover a very great difference, if not in the nature of the disease treated by Sir Astley Cooper and Mr. Averill, in their stages, and those noticed by Mr. Earle; the latter being deep, extensive, and communicating with the mouth—the former very superficial, and covered with scabs, and, from Mr. Averill's account of them, were not of the same malignant kind. If Mr. A. supposes that the application of strong nitric acid will render the use of the knife unnecessary, or that it is an improvement on Mr. Earle's plan of treatment, he is very much mistaken; for in such superficial cases as he has noticed, no surgeon would have recourse to the knife. For such cases Mr. Earle recommends the destruction of the part by a caustic as powerful as that of the nitric acid, viz. fused potass. They both act on the same principle, by destroying the diseased part, which probably had taken upon itself an independent vital principle, so as to form a kind of parasite; and so as it be *effectually* disorganized, whether by the agency of a poison or a caustic, as the arsenical paste, fused potass, the nitric acid, &c. &c., the result will be the same. Mr. Allard, an eminent surgeon of Bristol, employed for this purpose the butter of antimony, a powerful caustic; and Mr. Thomas Cam, an able surgeon of Bath, applied a saturated solution of nitrate of quicksilver; and neither of these gentlemen thought the adoption of those

articles, in preference to the fused potass and other caustics, of any importance in a practical point of view.

The diseases noticed by Mr. Earle and Mr. Averill, may be cured by the application of articles which are known to poison parasitical growths, as the phosphate of iron, muriate of iron, or carbonate of iron, by destroying their peculiar vitality; and this plan of treatment we consider preferable to that adopted by Mr. Averill, because it may be safely applied every day till the diseased parts have been effectually destroyed; whereas no surgeon can say how deep the destructive operation of sloughing, produced by the fused potass or the strong nitric acid, may prove, and what mischief either may occasion in an unhealthy constitution. Mr. Allard found the topical application of the oxyphosphate of iron, and the internal use of the phosphate of iron, to succeed in one case of phagedænic ulcerations, which had resisted the use of arsenic, the nitrate of silver, and other caustics.

WATERY HEAD.—Mr. Brown, a surgeon of Preston, has published a case of watery head, in which he, with the assistance of Mr. Greenwood, the house surgeon of the Dispensary, drew off the water, by means of a trocar. Mr. Brown, in his prefatory remarks, expresses his approbation of the division of this disease into *acute* and *chronic*. "The former," says he, "is, from its commencement, to be considered as a genuine instance of primary inflammation of the brain, and of course the indication of treatment is to lessen the momentum of the circulation of the blood in the head." Dr. Wilson Philip and his coadjutor, the learned Dr. Hastings, say, that they ascertained by some *philosophical* experiments on living animals, that the circulation or momentum of the blood, in inflamed parts, is diminished, and, of course, the scientific treatment is to quicken it; but it is common for such *great* Doctors to differ, and their patients to die. But, observant Mr. Brown, the disease is not hydrocephalus till effusion of serum has taken place; and, therefore, to say that it is "a genuine instance of primary inflammation," is, in our humble opinion, nonsense. The sequel of inflammation of *certain membranes* it no doubt is, and when the effusion has taken place to certain extent, the inflammation subsides, and the mischief which remains, viz. effusion of serum, is chronic.—The case in which Messrs. Brown and Greenwood performed the operation of tapping, Mr. Brown terms "the *chronic* form," a form says he, "which holds out great hopes of success, provided the operation be *early* employed." Being the sequel of inflammation, serious mischief may be done, if the inflammatory action has not entirely or nearly subsided.

The age of the infant was only five years, although the disease was, according to Mr. Brown's idea, of the *chronic* form. The child had previously been very cross, almost constantly crying and screaming, (strong symptoms of membranous inflammation within the head,) for which the mother had been in the habit of frequently giving it a dose of Godfrey's Cordial; the indiscriminate use of which, observes Mr. Brown, on account of the quantity of opium it contains, is one of the prolific exciting causes of infantile disorders

among the lower classes. Whether it acts as an *exciting* cause of the maladies of children, or a *predisposing* cause, is perhaps of little consequence; certain it is, that in inflammatory affections of the brain, lungs, or bowels, to which infants are very liable, it is a poison, and has no doubt destroyed many thousand lives in this country annually.

When Mr. Brown first saw the infant (16th September, 1823,) it was perfectly quiet; the eye-lids were half closed, the pupils immoveable to impressions, the head very large, and remained on the side on which it was placed; the fontinels very wide, the integuments distended, with a perceptible sense of fluctuation on pressure. Mr. Brown ordered a blister to be applied to the nape of the neck, a scruple of the strongest mercurial ointment to be rubbed into the skin of the arm-pit every four or six hours, and one of the following pills to be taken every third hour, (rather a novel form for an infant only five months old):

Take of Foxglove, powdered, six grains;
Prepared Calomel, one scruple.—Mix with mucilage of gum-arabic, so as to form a mass, and divide into ten pills.

On the following day, Mr. Brown was informed that the "blister had not risen." He found the pupils to act somewhat more readily. Reflection on all the circumstances of the case convincing him that medicine would not succeed in removing the disease, he suggested to the parents the necessity of drawing off the water by an operation, as the only means of cure. The parents objected to the operation; but "after a long time spent in persuasion, consent was obtained." The operation was performed in the following manner: "The child being placed with its head firmly secured, and in a *pending* position, on the lap of a woman, he made an incision with a lancet through the integuments, at the frontal angle of the right parietal bone, through which wound he carefully introduced the trocar. After withdrawing the stilet, nine ounces and three drachms of a clear lemon-coloured fluid flowed in an uninterrupted stream by the cannula. After the evacuation of the fluid, a bandage was applied tolerably tight round the head."

In the evening, Mr. Brown found the child more alive to external impressions; on waving a handkerchief before the eyes, the lids closed, and the muscular power of the body was more under the influence of volition. He ordered the pills and ointment to be repeated. The general health continued to improve for three days, at the end of which it had "a sort of convulsive fit, which held it some time," which was followed, as the mother supposed, by palsy of the *right* side, and "frequent twitching of the *left* leg towards the belly." Having vomited the pills, Mr. B. ordered them to be omitted and the mercurial friction to be continued. On the following day the child was "quite playful, the motion of the limbs quite free, the eyes steadily directed, "the bowels regular." The cough, which had been very trifling, becoming troublesome, Mr. Brown ordered two tea-spoonsful of the following mixture to be taken every third hour:—

Take of Oxymel of Squills, three drachms;
Sweet Spirit of Nitre, two ditto;
Camphorated Tincture of Opium, two ditto;
Tincture of Foxglove, thirty drops;
Peppermint water, three ounces. Mix.

The following day the mother complained of the restlessness of the child during the night; the bowels were regular, but the eyes did not act in unison. The infant frequently moaned. The fontinels being "a little more puffy," the roller was reapplied, and the medicines directed to be continued. The next day (Sept. 24th), the squinting being "visible in *both* eyes," the distension of the integuments of the fontinels and fluctuation more evident, Mr. B. proposed a repetition of the operation, but the mother objected to it, observing (*foolishly*, observes Mr. Brown,) "that she would rather the child should die than put it to more punishment." Mr. Brown, "finding any reasoning on the necessity of the operation not likely to succeed, ordered a *large quantity* of the mercurial ointment to be rubbed in." On the 26th, "the pulse was stronger, the bowels very open, the fæces green and mixed with skin.—Cough gone—but the mother still complained how ill the child rested in the night." It did not squint—"hectic flushes appeared several times upon the cheeks, both yesterday and to-day, with partial sweats on the head and face." The mercurial friction was ordered to be continued, and the cough mixture to be discontinued: On the 29th the child was again playful—the hectic flushes and squinting had left him, and the integuments covering the fontinels, on taking off the roller, became flaccid without any sense of fluctuation. On the 1st of October the child became cross, "*putting its fingers in its mouth as though it was suffering in part from dentition*," the bowels very loose, the fæces yellow. On the 4th, it had twitchings of the hands and legs, the squinting returned, cough troublesome, restlessness increased, and the fluctuation more distinct at the anterior fontinel. Mr. Brown now substituted "straps of adhesive plaster for the roller, supposing that they would "afford more equable pressure and support." On this day he made the important discovery "that the mother had *very imprudently been gossiping with the child in her neighbourhood*, and also neglected the use of the ointment." On the 6th, the child was very cross, and *always when awake rubbing its gums*—purging profuse." On account of the disturbed state of the bowels, Mr. Brown ordered the following mixture:

Take of Mixture of Chalk, four ounces;
Tincture of Opium, ten drops;
Tincture of Catechu, two drachms.—Mix.

A large spoonful to be taken after every liquid stool.

On the 8th, the child was out when Mr. Brown called. The purging having abated, he ordered the mixture to be omitted, and the mercurial friction to be continued. On the 10th, "the head appearing more enlarged, and the accumulation of fluid more obvious," Mr. Brown again strenuously urged the necessity of resorting to the operation, but his arguments failed with the gossiping

mother. On the 15th (at night) the father called on Mr. Brown, to apologize for the obstinacy of his wife, in not allowing him to act towards the child as he deemed fit. Mr. Brown, considering the obstinacy of a female so much a matter of course, visited the child the next morning, when he found it "greatly altered in appearance, laying in a perfect comatose state, and, to use the expression of its friends, *blind with its eyes open.*" The mother resigning the treatment of the child to Mr. Brown, he "again performed the operation in the same manner as noticed above, in the *left* side of the anterior fontanel, about mid-distance from the superior longitudinal sinus; *but nothing but blood escaped by the cannula.*" He then made another puncture about an inch distant from the first, externally. From this orifice blood also at first flowed, and *several* pieces of brain were discharged; "but," says he, "on varying the position of the cannula, nine ounces and a half of *water*, of a sero-sanguineous colour, escaped." During the discharge of this "sero-sanguineous fluid," he applied pressure to the head. "After the operation, the child became sick, vomited, and had a large *alvine* motion." The sickness soon subsided, and the child became perfectly sensible, and directed its eyes to surrounding objects, and even smiled when noticed by the mother. The roller was applied, and one of the following pills ordered to be given every eight hours:—

Take of Prepared Calomel, one scruple;
Foxglove, powdered, four grains.

To be well mixed, and formed into a mass with mucilage of gum arabic, and divided into six pills.

The next day, the child was fretful, and the squinting had returned. The bowels were open. On the 18th, it was "quite lethargic, complete paralysis prevailed, and the integuments of the head quite distended." A small quantity of the fluid having oozed through the wound, Mr. Brown thought proper again to introduce the cannula, when six ounces of "sero-sanguineous *water*" escaped. The child became more sensible, and all the alarming appearances vanished. The child afterwards became comatose, and the symptoms in general were of unfavourable import. On the 22d, several ounces of the sero-sanguineous water escaped, and the child was the following day "most surprisingly recovered, and again become playful, and sensible to surrounding objects, and the caresses of its mother." A bloody-coloured fluid continuing to ooze from the wound, Mr. Brown introduced a director, with the groove downwards, which facilitated the escape of an ounce of the same coloured fluid. The integuments were now so flaccid as to overlap. The roller was reapplied. In the evening, the child was seized with another convulsive fit, which continued to recur with increased severity, till the vital powers ceased.

On examining the brain, Mr. Brown found it pulpy, the choroid plexus very pale, and covered with hydatids, the lateral ventricles greatly enlarged, and their parietes extremely thin. The quantity of fluid removed on this examination amounted to about a quart!!

This case, coupled with that of Mr. Hammond (noticed in our present number), shews that greater liberty may be taken with the brain of an infant than medical men in general suppose. The case

appears to have been a very fair one for the operation, on account of the state of the sutures and fontanels admitting of the collapse of the cranium, on evacuating the accumulated serum; and the effects of liberating the brain, by evacuating the fluid, even after the second operation, are, in our opinion, highly interesting.

That there should have been necessity for making a second puncture, when Mr. B. performed the second operation, and especially of "varying the position of the cannula," to discover the seat of the "sero-sanguineous water," is much to be lamented. Both operations, and their results, as the escape of pure blood and "pieces of brain," to every surgeon must afford matter for reflection. Supposing that the operative part of the treatment was judiciously executed, what are we to say of the constitutional treatment? After drawing off the water, with what view did Mr. Brown direct a scruple of the strongest mercurial ointment to be rubbed into the skin, every four or six hours, and sixteen grains of calomel to be given every day? After the evacuation of the serum, a little mercury, with a purgative, might be necessary to correct any hydropic predisposition, or to produce a determination to the bowels; but really we can discover no necessity of administering mercury in such great quantity, to stimulate the absorbent system, after the serum had been drawn off. It appears to us, that the object of practice after the operation, was to keep the brain and nervous system in as quiet a state as possible. Now was not mercury, in such a quantity, more likely to excite irritation in the brain and nervous system, than to allay it? Although the child was restless, and although it frequently put its "*fingers to the gums*, as if it were teething," still the mercurial friction was continued, even in large quantity; and after the second operation, the calomel pills were represcribed.

About twenty years since, the case of the death of a child from salivation, by a dose of Ching's worm lozenges, was published at Hull, under the authority of a coroner's inquest, and the quantity of calomel it contained did not exceed three grains.

We have thought it our duty to make these observations on the free exhibition of mercury in this case, in order that our surgical readers may take it into consideration, when they form an opinion from the result of this case, as to the propriety of performing the operation in a case where the bones of the skull are loose, and the fontanels large, so as to admit of collapse. On this subject we have made some observations in a late number, when we noticed the treatment by compression by bandages, recommended by the scientific Sir Gilbert Blane, Bart., Physician Extraordinary to His Majesty, in cases of watery head.

THE STOMACH SYRINGE.—A Doctor Henry Payne, of Nottingham, has communicated to Dr. Macleod, a case of a poisonous quantity of laudanum being swallowed by a woman, aged 35, far advanced in pregnancy, for the dreadful purpose of suicide, in which the stomach syringe, invented by the ingenious Mr. Jukes, was applied with complete success. The learned doctor admits that Mr. Ward, a respectable chemist of Nottingham, a few months previously to his seeing the patient, called on him to shew him "Mr. Jukes's apparatus, every part of which he explained the use of

in an intelligent and satisfactory manner." In consequence of this, and not knowing that the instrument was in the possession of any of the surgeons of Nottingham, the doctor, after seeing his patient, "requested Mr. Ward to go *down* to Shenton, (a village a short distance from the town.) to remove the laudanum from her stomach." Mr. Ward, with Mr. Williams, a surgeon's pupil of the town, immediately complied with the doctor's request. On their arrival, the elastic tube was introduced into the stomach, and nearly a quart of warm water was injected and then drawn up, and this alternate operation was continued ten minutes, when the liquid matter ejected had no odour of opium. It was not in the doctor's power to be present, but he prescribed for her a "medicine of the *febrifuge kind*, to remove a degree of fever, which was however very slight. Although the laudanum had remained upwards of seven hours in the stomach, the recovery of the patient was almost immediate, and the following day she was free from any narcotic effects of the laudanum either on the brain or stomach. The result of this treatment has satisfied Dr. Payne, that "the application of the instrument was a far more appropriate remedy than powerful emetics, the repetition of which," says he, "might have excited the action of the uterus, and produced abortion." It is, in our opinion, very discreditable to a physician to be unacquainted with the periodical medical works of the day, because they are the only channel by which he can become acquainted with the improvements made in medicine in the different parts of the world. Mr. Jukes's Stomach Syringe, an invention unquestionably of great utility, was not known to Dr. Payne, although particularly noticed in all the medical journals of this country twelve months since!! Is the Doctor of the class of *legitimate* physicians, who think it derogates from their dignity to attend to the improvements of the moderns; and who suppose that any acquisition of modern information will contaminate their stock of classic lore? In our humble opinion, the man who is not alive to all the improvements and suggestions of his cotemporaries, is unworthy the title of physician or the confidence of his patients. When Mr. Read exhibited the use of his invention for washing out the stomach, on a dog, before Sir Astley Cooper, the scientific Baronet emphatically observed, "If I had known of this instrument a few weeks ago, I could have saved the life of a young lady who had swallowed poison, by whose bed side I sat for some hours, feeling acutely (no doubt) the mortification of not being able to counteract its fatal effects." Mr. Jukes's instrument, and Mr. Bush's operation with a similar one, had then been noticed in all the journals upwards of twelve months!! Dr. Payne observes, that "Mr. Jukes, of London, and Mr. Bush, of Frome, have *equal* claim to the merit of bringing before the *medical* public the apparatus by which liquid laudanum may be effectually removed from the stomach." Now, an account of Mr. Jukes's instrument was published in our journal four or five months before Mr. Bush gave an account of his operation at Frome; and as our work goes to Frome, and, indeed, we may say, from its sale, to every town of the United Kingdom, we have no doubt of Mr. Bush having seen our account of it. Dr. Orfila, many months anterior to Mr. Jukes's publication of his invention, noticed his experi-

ments on the stomach of a dog, with a similar instrument; and about the same time, our Correspondent, Dr. De Sanctis, published a representation of a stomach machine, with the same flexible tube, for conveying the vapour of ether into the stomach, in cases of suspended animation. We are, however, satisfied that Mr. Jukes, when he first recommended his Stomach Syringe to the attention of the faculty, was unacquainted with Dr. Orfila's invention.

TAPE-WORM.—Dr. Chesholm, about three years since, an eminent physician of Canterbury, prescribed the wine of the root of the meadow saffron, in a case of tape-worm, with complete success. The patient, a respectable farmer, had been afflicted with the disease about ten years. He had given the common routine practice a fair trial, under several practitioners; and under the direction of his *scientific* farrier, had taken "turpentine enough to kill a horse." Dr. Chesholm, having had a case in which the meadow-saffron wine, given for rheumatism, brought away a considerable portion of a tape-worm, he determined to give it a trial in this case. He accordingly gave him two ounces of the wine, with directions to take a tea-spoonful in a little water two or three times a day. On the third or fourth day, the patient passed a considerable portion of a tape-worm; but although he continued to take the medicine a week, no more of it was discharged. The patient has remained free from any symptom of the disease.

In an early number, we have noticed a case of tape-worm, in which the meadow-saffron wine, administered by Mr. Oliver, for rheumatism, about four years since, proved so destructive to the life of a worm, that the whole of it was discharged the day after the exhibition of the medicine.

ERGOT OF RYE *(Secale cornutum)*.—This article has been lately much recommended by Dr. Prescot, an eminent physician of America, to invigorate the uterus in cases of tedious labour from debility of that organ, and for chlorosis; and it appears, by the reports of several physicians of respectability on the continent, who have given it a trial in such cases, that it really merits the character Dr. Prescot has given it; viz. of being a peculiar stimulant, acting principally on the uterus. In cases of tedious labour, Dr. Prescot recommends a table-spoonful or two of a decoction of it (made by gently boiling half a drachm in four ounces of water for ten minutes) to be given every fifteen minutes. In cases of retention or suppression of the menstrual secretion, and in protracted labours, Dr. Prout recommends from thirty to sixty drops of the saturated tincture of it, to be administered every four hours in an aromatic water, as the pennyroyal or peppermint. The Ergot, is morbid rye, not from animalculæ, as some have supposed, but from a diseased state of the stem; in consequence of which, the grain elongates and assumes the appearance of a horn, and the cortical parts become black, and the whole grain possesses a peculiar acrid quality. In order that the article so respectably extolled, for its specific action on the uterus, may have a fair trial in this country, Mr. Charles Butler, of Covent Garden, has procured a quantity of it from North America.

LIFE PILLS.—In consequence of the letter which appeared in "a late number of this work, addressed to the Honourable and Right Reverend the Bishop of Gloucester," on the advertisement of the "Life Pills," by the Rev. Mr. Carrington, a clergyman of his diocese, from a barrrister of London, his Lordship, in a reply

which we received on the 26th of November, observes, "I should have supposed that he (the writer of the letter) was aware of the extreme difficulty attending all cases of clerical delinquency in incumbents, especially where no *positive* law is transgressed. From all the information I can hitherto obtain, the advertisement in question, however grossly unbecoming the clerical character, would not be deemed punishable in the ecclesiastical court. Of my opinion respecting the conduct of Mr. Carrington, neither he (the author of the letter to his Lordship) nor any person in my diocese can entertain any doubt." A Correspondent of Bristol informs us, that the said "Life Pills," are the property of a Mr. Barry, a vender of *infallible* remedies for all the diseases that assail poor humanity, and that he is the author of the advertisement in which these powerful stimulating pills of Capsicum are puffed off as remedies for the *diseases of excitement* Even if this be the case, the conduct of the Vicar of Berkley is, in our opinion, no less censurable for allowing such advertisements to appear under the sanction of his name. He certainly cannot be ignorant of the effects of such a powerful stimulant on the irritable constitution of youth, and that instead of acting as a preventive of pulmonary consumption, it is capable of bringing it into action in a system predisposed to it, and of hastening its progress after it has taken place to an incurable stage.

MODERN PUFFING.—It is a well-known fact that the late Sir Walter Farquhar, Dr. Reynolds, and other fashionable physicians, expended from 800*l.* to 1000*l.* a year in paragraphing the daily papers, for the purpose of keeping their names before the public. Whenever a person of distinction was attended by them, his indisposition, and the name of his attendant, were inserted in the leading papers of the day, at the expense of a guinea each time. The late Doctor Solomon, to keep his medicine alive, expended no less a sum than five thousand pounds annually. Of late, in consequence of the dearth of news, puffing paragraphs, possessing any thing likely to amuse the public, have been gratuitously admitted; and many of them have certainly proved highly amusing to the medical profession. A few weeks since, a puffing account appeared of an amputation at the hip-joint, which was performed by the great Sir Astley Cooper, Bart. and Surgeon, at St. Thomas's Hospital. On finishing it, the writer states, that the patient, who had been a soldier, observed that it was the most laborious day's service he had gone through; to which Sir Astley replied, "And I may say the same, my friend." There is not in surgery a more simple operation than that of amputation at the hip-joint; and as the operation has been performed in one-third of the time in which Sir Astley was engaged in it, the paragraph was probably inserted as a pretty specimen of ready wit. Another paragraph informs the public, that a man, by accident, "let a halfpenny slip into the gullet," and that a Mr. White, an eminent surgeon of Lambsconduit Street, introduced the probang, and on his withdrawing it, to his great astonishment, the halfpenny came out with it. This piece of intelligence appears under the head of "Extraordinary Operation"! It is common for a flat hard substance, of less size than a halfpenny, to

be retained in the gullet by the circular muscles, and for the spongy end of the probang to pass below it, and on being withdrawn, to bring out the article. Another informs us, that a Mr. Bridgeton "reapplied the scalp of a man after it had been nearly removed, and that it united;" and another, that a surgeon of Exeter removed a portion of the skull, after it was separated by nature!!

In the case of Mr. Grange, of Shenley, whose arm was wounded by Mr. Connolly, although it has made great noise in the country, the surgeons who attended him have thought proper to be silent. The circumstance of a man dying three hours after so simple an operation as the amputation of an arm being novel, and so disgraceful to the art of surgery, that we waited with no small degree of anxiety for the trial of Mr. Connolly, supposing that some good reason would be assigned for the unfortunate result. The evidence of the gentleman who performed the operation, and those who attended with him, have not however enabled us to account for its failure.

About four hours after the patient received the wound, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Lloyd, surgeons, residing within six miles of the place, saw him. Mr. Ridley, having arrived before the other gentlemen, claimed him as his patient. The bone and integuments were so much injured, as not to admit of the least hope of saving the limb; and although the patient walked up stairs, Mr. Ridley determined to postpone the operation till the following day, in order that he might recruit. He accordingly applied a tourniquet to prevent further bleeding, and bound up the arm. The next day the operation was performed by Mr. Webster; and although the man was at the time in good spirits, he was, in the short period of three hours, a corpse!! To prevent hemorrhage in an arm so shattered, a degree of pressure over the humeral artery by the tourniquet would be necessary to stop entirely the circulation; and in such a case was a patient likely to recruit? Indeed, was not a shattered limb, without any circulation, likely to become gangrenous in the time which had elapsed between the application of the tourniquet, and the amputation of the arm? Had the patient been conveyed to a London hospital, we have no hesitation in stating, that the surgeon would have lost no time in amputating the limb; and would any surgeon, accustomed to operations, entertain a doubt of a successful result?

In making these cursory remarks on this unfortunate case, we beg his surgeons to understand that our *sole* object is the defence of surgery, and not to lessen them in the opinion of their patients. If the whole of the case has not been published, it is incumbent on Mr. Ridley to give a plain statement of facts. It has been stated, that the patient had taken a quantity of spirituous liquors before the surgeons arrived; but this we find was not the case, for he only took a small glass of gin much diluted with water, and after he had taken it, the part nearly ceased to bleed. He was, at the time he received the wound, in good health, and had been generally considered a healthy subject. One thing is, at any rate, clear; if the patient had recovered, Mr. Connolly could not have been tried for manslaughter. His offence, however, in the mind of every honest man, would have been equally criminal.

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Of the LATE Dr. GEORGE WOODYATT,

Senior Physician to the General Infirmary of Worcester, &c. &c.

This respectable member of the medico-chirurgical class of physicians was a native of Ledbury. After receiving a liberal classical education, he was placed as an apprentice with the late Mr. Barrow, an eminent apothecary of Hereford, for the period of five years; during which, he applied his mind with great ardour to the study of the different branches of medicine, and conducted himself with such strict propriety in the choice of associates, and in the discharge of his duty, as to induce Mr. Barrow to permit him to attend the Hereford Infirmary. Here he became the pupil of the late Mr. Hardwicke, a surgeon of great practical, if not scientific knowledge. The attention he paid to the practice of this hospital, obtained for him the esteem of the late Thomas Cam, Esq., a surgeon of great practical and scientific information, and of the attending physicians, Drs. Cam and Campbell. On the expiration of the period of his apprenticeship, he visited London, to complete his professional education. Here he became the pupil of the late Dr. Biddulph and Sir James Earle, at Bartholomew's hospital, and attended the most eminent lecturers on anatomy, surgery, pharmacy, midwifery, &c. &c. On finishing his studies in London, he was admitted, after the usual examination in anatomy, physiology, and surgery, by the Court of Assistants, a member of the late Corporation of Surgeons, and afterwards a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of London. Being qualified and authorized by the surgeon's diploma, to exercise the healing art in any part of his Majesty's dominions, he resolved to commence his career in his native place, Ledbury, as a surgeon-apothecary. The zeal with which he had prosecuted his studies at Bartholomew's Hospital, having secured for him the friendship of Dr. Biddulph, that gentleman gave him a letter of introduction to his father, the late Michael Biddulph, Esq., of Ledbury, a gentleman of great weight in the county. By this highly respectable connexion, Mr. Woodyatt was introduced, not only to the leading families of Ledbury, and its vicinity, but to many of the counties of Hereford, Worcester, and Gloucester; in consequence of which, his practice soon became extensive and respectable. His efforts in his professional character having gained him general esteem among those who knew him, every prospect beamed fair on his rising eminence, even beyond the sanguine expectation of his first patrons. After following the practice two years, he married the daughter of John Freeman, Esq., of Suckley Hall, and sister of the late Mrs. Nott, of Ledbury (a lady much esteemed for superior intellectual endowments, and most benevolent disposition), with

whom he had a fortune, which rendered him independent of practice. Having established a high professional character, he determined to obtain the degree of M. D. at a Scotch university, and for this purpose he went to Glasgow, where, after the usual examination, the honour was conferred on him. The doctor, after practising as a physician in Ledbury, and its neighbourhood, a few years, settled in Worcester, by the urgent solicitation of several families of distinction, and in a short time had the good fortune of being elected Physician to the Infirmary, the important duties of which he discharged with great justice to the charity, and credit to himself. His reputation, as a physician of great practical and scientific knowledge, being established, he soon had the happiness to find his advice solicited by the most respectable characters of the county of Worcester, in preference to that of Dr Wilson, now Dr. Wilson Philip, who had been, for a few years, the leading physician of the place; and it is generally supposed that this preference was the cause of Dr. Wilson having so suddenly relinquished the field to his rival.

Dr. Woodyatt, being perfectly at his ease with respect to practice, instituted a medical society, for the discussion of subjects connected with medicine, with the very laudable view of keeping up a spirit of enquiry among his brethren. In this society, it appears the doctor, although the founder, did not command much influence; for in a short time after its establishment, a resolution was proposed and adopted, to compel the members to confine their practice to their respective departments. One member, a physician of great experience and scientific attainments, was reprimanded, if not expelled, for having violated the law, by opening a vein, although in a case of such great emergency, requiring prompt assistance to save the life of the patient!! To unite the office of the physician and surgeon in the same person was, in the opinion of the majority of this enlightened society, highly improper, because it derogated from the dignity of each, and what *perhaps* had no little weight, militated against the fee-trade!! According to their laws, the apothecary was required to call in the assistance of a surgeon to bleed his patient, when it was necessary for him to lose blood; and if the surgeon found the patient seriously ill, he would, of course, urge the absolute necessity of consulting a physician. Hence the patient, instead of remunerating one practitioner, would have to pay three!!! To the members of the society this monstrous law might prove beneficial; but to the finances of a tradesman or of a farmer it might, in a lingering or chronic disease, prove ruinous, unless indeed the disease, under such a combination of talent, could be brought to a speedy termination, contrary to the old adage, "too many cooks spoil the broth."

Against a regulation which was calculated not only to operate against the progress of medical science, but the benefit of the public, Dr. Dods, a physician of experience and observation, promptly protested, in the public papers of the city, and boldly asserted, that no physician could do justice to his patients, who was unacquainted with surgery. The society, in consequence of this

unfortunate exposure, resolved to send the doctor to Coventry, and not, on any account whatever, meet him in consultation!!! To this resolution, the doctor replied, that he really should not stand in need of their assistance; for being practically acquainted with all the branches of medicine, he could bring the rays of each to bear on the grand question of practice. On some weak minds, the insinuation of the society, that a doctor, who practises all the branches of medicine, could not be a *regular* physician, had the intended effect, viz. of prejudicing them against Dr. D.; but as truth will come out, and merit will ultimately make its way, the doctor has, in a great measure, triumphed over his adversaries.

Dr. Woodyatt having received his professional education in the schools of surgery and pharmacy, and having boasted of having saved the lives of patients by the prompt use of the lancet, we are satisfied that he raised his voice and exercised his influence in opposing a law so inconsistent with the present state of medicine, or against an attempt to ape a certain society of regular doctors of London, to whom the *dignity* of the physician is of far greater consequence than the *health* or LIVES of their patients!!! According to their politic law, if a patient, residing some miles from Worcester, or his friends, were so ignorant of the nature of the disease, as to send for a surgeon instead of a physician, for in Worcester the apothecaries and the surgeons are denominated doctors, the surgeon must not interfere with the case, but coolly return home, and send a physician; and in case the patient should require bleeding, a person is dispatched for the surgeon to perform the operation, and during this ceremony, for the support of the *dignity* of the profession, the disease, if inflammation of a vital organ, or impending apoplexy, may terminate in death, or arrive to an incurable stage!! So much for the *dignity* of the profession, or professional etiquette.

If this scientific or politic society have survived its founder, we advise it to admit old Dame Nash, as an *extraordinary* Member, and Banker Wakeman, an *honorary* member. The association being denominated the *Tea* Medical Society, the former will keep up the spirit of gossiping, and amuse them with some novel mode of introducing twins; and the latter gentleman will not only take care of their funds, but in consequence of being able to distinguish *quackery* from *regular* medicine and *honest* practice, may be very useful in regulating their discussions, and in correcting their reports, if they should venture to publish any. Being desirous to assist the society in promoting the science for the benefit of mankind, we shall be happy to recommend to them some *enlightened* practitioners of the metropolis as *corresponding* members, should they stand in need of any. As a subject of great importance in a physiological point of view, we recommend them to investigate and discuss a very extraordinary circumstance, which occurred on the farm of Dr. Hill, of Ledbury, (viz.) the production of a complete head of a calf, without any part of neck, or appearance of its having been attached, which escaped with the liquor amnii after the birth of a *complete* calf. This curious lusus naturæ was examined by Dr. Hill, who will no doubt be happy to furnish them with every particular.

The numerous prescriptions of Dr. Woodyatt, we have had an opportunity of seeing, were not only neat and chemical, but shewed that he was well acquainted with all new medical works, and was anxious his patients should receive the benefit of new discoveries. In practice he appeared to us to give too great an importance to the office of the liver in the animal economy, and the influence of the bile in the production or aggravation of diseases; but this we may say of nearly all the leading physicians of England. The doctor's private character was no less worthy of imitation than his professional one; for he not only paid attention to the diseases of the poor, but also to their domestic comforts. The doctor calmly resigned his life to Him who gave it, on the 20th of February last, at his house in Worcester, in the 60th year of his age. His son-in-law, Doctor Hastings, has succeeded him as senior physician to the Worcester Infirmary, a gentleman unquestionably of superior talent; and being alive to the improvements of medicine, and a practitioner of observation well acquainted with the different departments of medcine, he will no doubt also succeed to his respectable private practice.

Worcester has been for upwards of a century, celebrated for eminent physicians and surgeons; and during the life-time of Drs. Cameron and Johnstone, and Mr. Russell and Jefferys, the infirmary was a most excellent medico-chirurgical school. We advise the *tea* and the *supper* medical societies of the city, to unite and to discard all sordid and selfish views, and admit the respectable members of the profession, who are, from education and experience, qualified to enter into the discussion of subjects connected with medicine; and to allow also the apprentices, or pupils of the surgeons and apothecaries of Worcester, to attend their meetings, in order to improve their taste for medical enquiries. We recommend them also not to imitate the medical and chirurgical society of London, in keeping their discoveries and communications secret, for twelve or eighteen months, or until they have collected matter to make an expensive book, but convey the information to the medical world without delay, through the medium of the periodical press, for the benefit of mankind. Such liberal conduct would really add to their dignity as professional men, whereas their present law of certain exclusions is disgraceful to them; and if continued, may excite a discussion among the enlightened men of Worcester: the result of which would assuredly give those they have represented as irregular practitioners, merely because they have united the physician and surgeon in one, a superiority over them; for weak indeed must that person be, who, after, even a superficial investigation of the subject, is not satisfied of the truth of the observation made by the celebrated Pearson, that "the theory and principles of physic and surgery are indivisible, since they constitute one and the same science."—Cordially united for liberal discussion of medical subjects, and for giving new remedies a fair trial, they will merit the commendation and esteem, not only of the inhabitants of their city, but of the whole medical world; but, if they persist in making distinctions with the sole view of benefiting themselves, they will justly merit the censure of all good men. To a society of medical men of generous minds,

nothing can be more gratifying than the conviction of having contributed to the public good, by pointing out more certain means of preventing, mitigating, and curing disease.

UNQUALIFIED APOTHECARIES. — The complaints from the different parts of England and Wales, to the Court of Examiners of the Companies of Apothecaries, of unqualified men, officiating as apothecaries in opposition to the late Act of Parliament, intituled "An Act for the better regulating the practice of Apothecaries throughout England and Wales," and to the great injury of his Majesty's subjects, have within the last six years been so numerous, that the Court have found it necessary, in order to save their secretary the trouble of writing the answers, and to obtain such information as will enable their attorney to adopt legal proceedings against the offenders, to get lithographic impressions of their general reply to the first letter of complainants. Of this letter the following is a copy:

Apothecaries' Hall.

"Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the instant, and in reply to say, that before any steps can be taken as to Mr. the person therein mentioned, it is necessary that evidence should be procured on the following points.

"First, as to the situation in life, and the means by which the person complained of maintained himself previously to the 1st of August, 1815. If the party was brought up to the medical profession, the name and residence of the person to whom he served his apprenticeship, and if possible, the time when his indenture expired, should be furnished, as it is of the most material consequence to be quite satisfied that the person complained of did not act as an apothecary, previously to the 1st of August, 1815.

"It is not sufficient to prove that the person was previously to the 1st of August, 1815, only an assistant to another person, as many gentlemen, while they are assistants, have private patients, which would be sufficient to exempt them from the penalties contained in the act, as in law, attending private patients would be considered as being in practice as an apothecary, although the party may be acting as assistant to another person at the same time.

"Second, authentic information of the age of the party, from the parish registry, if possible.

"Third, evidence that he is now practising as an apothecary. For this purpose, it is necessary to be furnished with the christian and surnames of patients attended by him in complaints *strictly medical*, together with the parish and county in which such patients reside, and their occupations, together with the day of the month, and date of the year in which they were attended; and it must be shewn, that the party complained of attended the patients for the sake of gain; that he prescribed the medicines, and furnished them, and if a bill has been delivered by him to any patients, it is desirable that such bill or a copy of it, should be forwarded to me:—if no bill has been delivered, or a bill cannot be procured, then the name of the person by whom the medicines were delivered; if sent by a servant of the person complained of, or if sent for by the patient, then

the name of the party by whom they were fetched, together with his residence, should be mentioned. The nature of the disorder for which the medicines were furnished, should also be mentioned.

"When this evidence is given, the society will be more competent to judge whether the case can be prosecuted with probability of success; and I shall be glad therefore to hear further from you on the subject. I am, Sir, your obedient humble Servant."

To Mr.

Mr. Llewellyn, a scientific surgeon-apothecary of Leatherhead, having very substantial reasons for supposing that a person in Leatherhead, or its neighbourhood, was exercising the healing art without being qualified by a proper professional education, and was in fact tampering with the lives of the ignorant from mere motives of lucre, very properly acquainted the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company, with his suspicions as to the incompetency of the practitioner to do justice to his patients. In consequence of this formal complaint, Mr. Bacot, the solicitor to the Court, sent him a lithographic copy of the letter we have given above. To this letter Mr. Llewellyn replied, as fully as the information he had received respecting the practitioner enabled him. To Mr. Llewellyn's letter, Mr. Bacot returned the following answer:

Apothecaries' Hall, 10th October, 1823.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 8th instant, I beg to say, that the point upon which you are unable to furnish information, is the most material of all the evidence, as it is indispensable that the society should have such evidence as will satisfy them that Mr. ——— did not practise on his own account—previously to 1815. If any proceedings were adopted without this evidence being furnished, and Mr. ——— proved that he had practised on his own account, the society would be defeated at a great expense; and what is more material, it would have a very bad effect on the public mind. Under these circumstances, I cannot hold out any expectation to you that the society will interfere.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Mr. Llewellyn. EDMUND BACOT."

Mr. Llewellyn, conceiving by this reply that the Court of Examiners had become indifferent to the interest of the licentiates, and that the public, in consequence of that apathy, would not derive the benefit from the act of parliament, which was intended by the legislature, lost no time in making the following answer:

"SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your answer, for which I feel particularly obliged; but am sorry to learn that the society is so reluctant in protecting their licentiates. It always appeared to me that I had a claim on their protection, and labouring under that impression, I was induced to lay out a considerable portion of my fortune in this village, in order to render my establishment complete; but if the society will suffer unqualified persons to practise, may I take the liberty of asking what advantage is the act to the public, or to those who have duly qualified themselves

to practise? With regard to the evidence necessary to carry on the prosecution, I confess the most material point is that which I am not able to furnish the society with. But allow me to ask, is it procurable in any case? certainly not; we may trace the pedigree of a person for years, as I can in the case of Mr.———, but it is impossible for me to bring forward an evidence to prove that Mr.———, did not at any time prior to the 5th of August 1815, give his advice: I can certainly prove, that he never was in practice on his own account, he never maintained himself as a practitioner; in corroboration of what I have already advanced, Mr.—— has never kept an account with druggists—he has never had his name on a door—he cannot produce day-book or ledger—in short, he cannot produce a single vestige of any criteria, by which apothecaries are designated; consequently, I am still of opinion, this is a case for the society's cognisance.

"You will oblige me by laying this letter before the court, and favour me with an answer as early as possible.

I am, Sir, your obedient humble Servant,

Leatherhead. CHARLES LLEWELLYN."

To this letter Mr. Bacot replied:

Apothecaries' Hall, 28th October, 1823.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 24th, I beg to say, that the Society of Apothecaries is not reluctant to vindicate the cause of the licentiates; but without being on certain grounds, it cannot be expected that they will commence legal proceedings, in which, if defeated, the consequences to the profession generally would be much more serious than the allowing one person to practise, who might, by bare possibility, be liable to the penalty. *I have never yet commenced an action without having good information as to the former mode of life of the party complained of, so as to render it a matter without doubt that he never did practise on his own account.*

"Your question as to what benefit the act is proceeded upon, *assuming the fact* that Mr.——— is not qualified—it is barely possible that he may not be, but without evidence as to the manner in which he *did* gain his livelihood, instead of giving evidence of what he *did not* do, I cannot advise the society to commence legal proceedings.

"I have reason to suppose from the situation in which Mr.——— has been as surgeon of Greenland ships, that it is likely that he has attended patients previously to the act on his own account, though he may not have kept a shop.

"I should wish to know what proof you can produce that Mr. ——— never had an account with a druggist,—that he never kept a shop,—that he never had a name on the door,—that he never took a room,—that he never had a day-book, or that he never had a vestige of any criterion by which apothecaries are characterized,—because if you prove all this, I think it very likely that it would tend to prove what he was doing. I shall lay your letters and my answers before the committee, and take their instructions.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"Mr. Llewellyn. EDMUND BACOT."

A few days after Mr. Llewellyn was honoured with the receipt of this letter, he waited on Mr. Bagot in London, and after some conversation on the duty of the Court of Examiners not to allow pretenders and unqualified practitioners to encroach on the privileges of the regular apothecary, and to rob ignorant invalids under the pretext of relieving or curing their maladies, he liberally proposed to defray the expense of the law proceedings, in case they did not succeed in their action against the offender of whom he had complained. This proposition, so creditable to Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Bacot promised to lay before the Court of Examiners. Mr. Llewellyn, after waiting some days for an answer to his proposal, wrote to Mr. Bacot, to request him to favour him with the resolution of the Court on his proposition. To this letter Mr. Bacot returned the following laconic reply:

Apothecaries' Hall, 29th December, 1823.

"SIR,—I beg to say in answer to your last letter, that the society are taking the opinion of counsel on the case which you have laid before them for their own satisfaction, and when obtained, you shall be acquainted with the result.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Mr. Llewellyn. EDMUND BACOT."

After the expiration of a week, Mr. Llewellyn received the following letter:

Apothecaries' Hall, 5th January, 1824.

"SIR,—I beg to inform you, that I have obtained Mr. Scarlett's opinion relative to the right of persons in the situation of Mr. ——, to practise as Apothecaries without undergoing any examination; and his decided opinion is, that such persons are not required to undergo any examination, or receive any certificate. Under these circumstances, therefore, the society will decline to take any proceedings against Mr. ——. If you call on me any day, before one o'clock, in Serle-street, I will show you Mr. Scarlett's opinion.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Mr. Llewellyn. EDMUND BACOT."

Mr. Llewellyn being satisfied, by the correspondence with Mr. Bacot, and the private conversation he had with him, that the Court of Examiners were, from some motive or other, which he could not fathom (probably policy), indifferent as to the interest of the licentiates and of the public, declined to give Mr. Bacot and his masters any further trouble on the subject.

The correspondence is in our opinion highly interesting in many points of view. In the first place, the opinion of Mr. Scarlett is most extraordinary as to the legal meaning of the act. The person, it seems, had a right to practise as an *apothecary*, because he had been employed as a *surgeon* in a *Greenland ship*! Are we then to understand that a person with a diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons has a right to practise as an apothecary without a licence from the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company? This

surely was not the intention of the legislature; for at the College of Surgeons the candidate for a diploma undergoes no examination, touching his knowledge of pharmacy, or his competency to compound prescriptions, and administer medicines to the afflicted. Will Mr. Scarlett say that Sir Astley Cooper, or Mr. Abernethy, or a surgeon ignorant of pharmacy, may settle as an apothecary in any part of "England or Wales" because they have practised surgery previously to the passing of the Act, or in consequence of being members of the College of Surgeons? The person, against whose practice Mr. Llewellyn preferred a complaint, had not served an apprenticeship either to an apothecary or a surgeon, nor had he been examined at the College of Surgeons. He had obtained the appointment of surgeon, or surgeons' mate, at a time when the navy and army were in great want of surgeons and surgeon's mates, and when the captains of Greenland ships were under the necessity of taking even the shop-boys of surgeons and apothecaries, as surgeons. We know at that time common porters of druggists were engaged as surgeons by the captains of Greenland ships. Surely it was never the intention of the legislature, to allow such men, on being discharged from their ships, to exercise the healing art as *regular* apothecaries, and to put them on a level with the licentiates of the Company of Apothecaries! The Lord Chief Justice Abbott, observed on a late trial, that the intention of the Apothecaries' Act, was to protect the *public* against ignorant pretenders, and that it did not authorise ignorant men to practise as apothecaries because they had carried on the trade of an apothecary anterior to the period when the act was put in force. The intention and meaning of the clause of exemption, he emphatically observed, applied only to those who were *regular* practitioners, and not to impostors. The question, therefore, is, had the person against whom Mr. Llewellyn had justly complained to the court, practised as a *regular* apothecary anterior to the period when the act was put in force?

One of the reasons assigned by Mr. Bacot for declining to adopt law proceedings against the supposed unqualified practitioner, "the *great expense* of a law-suit," certainly deserves the notice of all the licentiates of the Apothecaries' Company, and indeed of the legislature. Those who have received a licence to practise within the city of London, or within ten miles of it, paid for it ten guineas; and those intending to practise beyond that distance, paid 6 guineas. The money thus received, the Act states, "shall belong to, and be appropriated, and disposed of, by the Master, Wardens, and Society of Apothecaries, in such manner as they shall from time to time direct and deem most expedient." Since the Act was put in force, viz. the 1st of August, 1815, the society has received about sixteen thousand pounds for licences only!! Now surely, with such a fund, it ill became them to assign so paltry a reason as the expense, for declining to adopt legal proceedings against a person who had been declared incompetent to practise as an apothecary by one of their most respectable licentiates. As the excuse implies a low state of their funds, we beg to ask, to what purposes have they applied the sixteen thousand pounds they have received for licences? Has a

great portion of it been employed in fitting up a retail shop in their Hall, or in printing and distributing their last circular advertisement?

The object of the legislature in leaving the disposal of the money thus received for licences to their discretion, was evidently to defray the necessary expenses of the Court of Examiners, and those attending the prosecution of ignorant practitioners, and others, who might dare to practise as apothecaries without a licence from the Company. Notwithstanding the numerous complaints that have been made to the Court of Examiners, of ignorant pretenders practising as apothecaries in different parts of the country, we have heard of only two prosecutions that have been conducted at the expense of the company; and as to itinerant apothecaries or quacks, they are as numerous throughout the country as they were anterior to the passing of the act: but the latter, Mr. Bacot may say, are protected by a seven-shilling licence from Somerset House!! The person who sells a box of pills, a vial of drops, or any other form of medicine, for the cure or mitigation of a disease, whether an itinerant or otherwise, is an apothecary, and the practice of that man is as much cognizable by the law, for regulating the practice of apothecary, as that by a person who opens an apothecary's shop, and supplies the patients who consult him with medicines. Why then has this said Company of Apothecaries allowed this gang of impostors to carry on their infamous traffic so long, even under their own noses, with impunity?

The sum of ten guineas for a licence to practise as an apothecary, within the distance of ten miles of the city of London, fixed by the legislature, is, in our opinion, much too high. For one tenth part of that sum, a pupil may attend all the hospitals and lectures on the different branches of medicine, and even obtain the degree of M. D. in Paris. To leave the disposal of the money the Court of Examiners receive for licences to the discretion of the society, or to any purpose they may think proper, was, in our opinion, very injudicious; for if the money they receive for licences be their own, it operates as no small inducement for a court less conscientious than the present, to grant a licence to those whose classical and professional education did not entitle them to it. In some parts of Wales an apothecary does not receive a greater premium with an apprentice than is paid for a licence to practise within the distance of ten miles of the city of London; and many of them after finishing their education in London, as required by the apothecaries' act, have been under the necessity of acting as assistants to apothecaries two or three years, in order to obtain a sum to enable them to pay for a licence. Hence the imposition is not only a cruel tax on industry, but we have known instances of its having operated to the disadvantage of surgeons and apothecaries, by putting it out of their power to avail themselves of very favourable opportunities of commencing practice.

The clause which authorises a certain number of the Society of the Company of Apothecaries to examine the drugs of the shops of the apothecaries of England and Wales, we consider highly objectionable; for the company being dealers in drugs, they cannot

complain of the articles which were procured from their own establishment, and as they may not be more virtuous or honest, than the wholesale druggists of London, they may find fault with articles, to extend their own trade. On examining the mercurial ointment in the shop of an apothecary, a few miles from London, one of the company observed that it was very inferior to that made at Apothecaries' Hall, but on using his test, viz. of weighing the same bulk of each, it appeared that the one which he had condemned was the best!!!

We are happy to find that the Apothecaries' Act will shortly be rediscussed in the House of Commons, in which case it will no doubt receive the corrections which experience has pointed out to be necessary, and, in that case, the Court of Examiners will have occasion to employ their attorney to make out a statement of their receipts for licences to apothecaries and assistants, as well as of penalties. It will then appear clear, whether the Court of Examiners have faithfully discharged their duty to the licentiates and the public, or abused the power with which they have been invested, by making laws which have militated against the progress of the healing art, the promotion of which was one of the objects of the act. It will then appear whether they have formed a connexion with the College of Physicians, for their mutual benefit, and to the injury of those, who, in point of classical and professional education and experience, are by no means their inferiors. We shall revert to this subject on noticing the late circular *puffing* advertisement of this "*Worshipful* Company of Apothecaries."

MINERAL WATERS.—M. Desportes, in some late remarks on mineral waters, states that the mineral water from which carbonic acid escapes on exposure to the atmosphere, whether native or artificial, should not be lightly recommended by practitioners; for he has frequently observed them to derange the digestive functions, and occasion such a degree of excitement of the brain, as to produce the appearance of intoxication, with other distressing nervous affections. Similar effects frequently follow a long draught of the Cheltenham, Leamington, Harrowgate, and Bath waters, which we are more disposed to attribute to a carburetted or sulphuretted hydrogene, which generally escapes from those waters on being taken out of the wells in which they were confined; for carbonic acid gas allays irritation of the stomach. When an aperient salt is taken in a state of effervescence, as the nostrum sold under the name of Seidlitz Powders, the gas, escaping into the intestines, produces a distressing degree of distension, and prevents the operation of the salt; and it is very common for patients, who have taken this pretended composition of the Seidlitz water, to be troubled with air in the bowels, and an unpleasant grumbling, with slight griping pain, and very small loose evacuations for several days. Such an aperient medicine weakens the stomach and bowels, by distending them, and keeping up irritation. much more than a strong purgative; for the latter, by rousing the action of the intestines, and purging the viscera, is generally followed by an increased strength, and an improvement of the digestive organs.

INTERNAL INFLAMMATION. — *To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*—SIRS,—The following case, which has just occurred in my practice, tends to prove to what an extent inflammation of important organs may go on without one circumstance occurring, that could justify the medical practitioner in suspecting danger.

J. A. aged seven years, fair complexion, and delicate form, complained on Tuesday, the 24th of February, of slight head ache, with sickness, and a pain referred to the sternum; his pulse small and quick; tongue thinly coated with brown mucus; great lassitude and indisposition to bodily exertion; slight cough, which was considered constitutional; not much difficulty of breathing; appetite somewhat impaired; no great thirst; his bowels, although regular, were acted upon by a calomel purgative; a small blister applied over the seat of pain, and a febrifuge mixture administered at intervals. He was at a preparatory boarding school, and to avoid noise and fatigue, was kept separate from the other boys. The remedies produced decidedly good effect; the pain diminished, and he gradually improved; on Saturday he was three hours with his mother—made a good dinner, and appeared very cheerful. On Sunday, he was able to go into the school-room, and heard prayers and a sermon with the other boys; slept well, and appeared perfectly recovered; medical attendance no longer considered necessary.

Early on Monday morning, one of the teachers went for the purpose of getting him up to breakfast; in doing which, he fainted; upon this, medical aid was again resorted to. Myself and partner, Mr. Taylor, immediately saw him, and we found him much sunk without any perceptible pulsation at the wrist, and only a fluttering action discovered on applying the hand over the region of the heart; his lips were livid, and extremities cold; these symptoms of extreme danger, rendered it prudent that he should be removed to his parents' house, where he expired at 2 o'clock on Tuesday.

This interesting case, made me particularly desirous of ascertaining the cause of his sudden dissolution, and I requested permission to attend the post-mortem examination with Mr. Armstrong of Islington, who was the medical attendant of the family.

On opening the chest, we discovered the left lobe of the lungs firmly adherent to the diaphragm and pleura costalis, covered by a thick layer of coagulable lymph of a peculiar character, (the cheesy appearance of scrofula,) the substance of the lung not much affected; it was separated with difficulty, and not without the aid of the scalpel; there was a considerable quantity of fluid in the cavity, as well as in the pericardium, which also adhered to the heart by the same medium, the right lobe of the lung was healthy, the liver also, the gall bladder full, in consequence of an obstruction in the duct which prevented the escape of the bile into the duodenum. The stomach and bowels healthy: it was not considered necessary to prosecute the examination further.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Middleton Terrace, Pentonville. WILLIAM LYON.—*Surgeon.*
5th March, 1824.

EPILEPSY.—In a case of epilepsy, in the Kent and Canterbury hospital, Dr. Chisholm adopted the following treatment:—The patient (William Stone) was twenty-two years of age; the fits recurred, at irregular intervals, about three times a day; "very rarely leaving him free a single day, and never for thirty-six hours together, during the last three years." The doctor ordered a seton in the nape of the neck, blue pill and extract of henbane at night, and a strong solution of Epsom salt with the compound tincture of senna, to empty the bowels every day until he could be received into the hospital. On the 12th of last July he was admitted an in-patient. Although he had strictly followed the doctor's directions, his disease continued unabated. The seton had lately come out. The doctor ordered the size of a nutmeg of an electuary, composed of subcarbonate of iron, Angustura bark in powder, compound powder of cinnamon and syrup of ginger, to be taken three times a day; and a tea-spoonful or two of the following drops to be taken in a little water when he expected a fit.

Take of Fœtid Spirit of Ammonia,
Ammoniated Tincture of Valerian, of each one ounce;
Tincture of Stramonium, one drachm.—Mix.

He directed the bowels to be kept freely purged, and the shower bath to be used three times a week.

July 25.—The fits were less frequent and not so violent.

July 29.—He ordered two pills to be taken immediately, composed of calomel and extract of henbane, of each three grains; and a purging draught to be taken in two hours.

August 5.—The seton being worn out, the doctor ordered the tartar emetic ointment to be rubbed on the chest.

August 9.—The fits still less frequent. The treatment was continued till September the 3d, when the doctor reports, that he had had only one or two very slight attacks since the 15th of August. Not regularly taking the bath, and the bowels being confined, he ordered eight grains of calomel with three of extract of henbane to be administered; the emetic tartar ointment to be rubbed on the upper arm, and the shower bath to be used three times a week.

On the 19th.—"Having had no return of the fits, he was this day made an out-patient, with strict orders to take his medicine regularly, and come to the bath twice a week. In consequence of neglect, he had a slight return, and was obliged to pay more attention. Stone continued to rub the tartar emetic ointment first on one arm and then on the other, till the beginning of November, when he left it off entirely. He complained that the electuary got dry; he was therefore supplied with the subcarbon of iron and the Angustura bark in powders, which, with some laxative medicine, were taken occasionally. He has been at work for the last fourteen weeks with a horse and cart, and had not lost an hour, having never had the slightest return. He is perfectly well.—*Jan.* 20, 1824."

I have a boy, says Dr. C. aged eight, under my care, who has been the subject of epilepsy during the last seven years, with whom I am trying counter-irritation, by means of the tartar emetic ointment alone. The only medicine ordered for him is a laxative mixture, to be taken occasionally, to obviate constipation. The last time I

saw him, he had been free from fits for the space of twelve days. His mother says, that for a long time past he has generally had three or four daily, and that they were severe. He has not been under my care more than a month or five weeks. We shall see the result.

ASCARIDES.—A respectable gentleman, who had suffered exceedingly from Ascarides for twenty years, informs us, that he has effectually got rid of the disease by taking regularly three times a day for a month, a scruple of Peruvian Bark in powder, 4 grains of subcarbonate of iron, and fifteen grains of the subcarbonate of soda, in a glass of peppermint water.

GOUT.—In our 95th number, we have noticed the "grand divisions of the human frame, and the forms of *open* and *concealed* gout, by Dr. J. Johnson, in his *practical* researches *on* the *nature, cure,* and *prevention* of gout, and all its various forms, which he has published with the laudable view "of laying before the patient *and* practitioners, a *fair, candid,* and *honest* statement, of what *can* and *cannot* be done by a *regular* and *scientific* application of remedies in this painful disease."!!! We have now, therefore, only to notice his "*practical* divisions, &c. of gout." The work is divided into no less than fifty-six sections. Twenty-six are devoted to as many different species or "forms of *open* and *concealed* gout;" one to the question "is gout hereditary?" two to the "*morbid chemistry,* and *morbid* anatomy of gout;" one to the "causes of gout;" one to the "distinctions of gout;" one to the "prognosis;" one to the "*nature* of gout;" six to the "empirical and regular treatment;" one to the paroxysms *impending*;" one to the "paroxysm *commencing*;" one to the "acme *or* course of the attack;" one to the "fever;" one to the "*local* inflammation;" one to the "*pain*;" one to the "decline of the attack;" nine to the "treatment of chronic, primitive, fixed, fixed primitive, sciatic, misplaced and irregular gout, *under* spasmodic forms, irregular gout under inflammatory forms, wandering and imperfect gout, and one to the prevention of gout by regimen, exercise, clothing, medicine, &c. &c. Among the twenty-six species, or different forms of "*open* and *concealed* gout," are conversions of *other* diseases into gout, *conversion* of gout into the form of other diseases, gout by *translation,* gout by *extension* of *another* disease, gout of an inflammatory or spasmodic nature, gout of age, gout of sex, gout of habits or professions, gout of seasons, gout of different classes of society, gouty apoplexy, gouty hypochondriasis and hysterics, spasmodic gout of the heart and lungs, &c. &c. The discovery of so many species and forms of gout in a navy practice, certainly shews at any rate, that the doctor is a physician of most minute observation or ingenious invention.

"Conversions of diseases into gout, he denominates *critical* gout. In this section he observes, than Van Swieten relates the case of a man affected with *pleurisy*, "who, on the fourth day of the disease, and after *copious* blood letting, &c. &c. had been tried *in vain*, was *suddenly* seized with *acute* gout in both feet, when the pain of the side and fever *immediately* disappeared and returned no more." Hence the pleurisy in the Doctor's opinion was converted into gout and shifted its situation to carry on its *morbid* chemical action in the feet!!! Every man of experience has met with similar cases.

It is common for a gout paroxysm to be susponded by active inflammation of the lungs, and even by chronic congestion of the vessels of the lungs and brain.

In the first case, on unloading the vessels of the lungs, the blood is more easily transmitted through the vascular system by the heart, and the gouty paroxysm coming on, produces a successful diversion in favour of the inflammation of the lungs; but surely no man acquainted with the two diseases, would suppose for a moment that the inflammation of the lungs was converted into gout, and that it had quitted its seat for the extremities!! In the two latter cases, viz. of chronic congestion of the vessels of the brain and lungs, the vital powers are so much reduced as not to admit of a gouty paroxysm or inflammatory action; and after removing, as it were, a weight off the springs of life by bleeding, it is common for a paroxysm of gout to come on in a gouty subject, especially at the period of the year it generally visits him. In the ninth section the doctor introduces a case of gout converted into pleurisy, from the pen of Dr. *Felix*, of Bristol, in a letter addressed to Dr. Dickson, of Clifton. This case, he supposes, settles for ever the question whether gout be of an *inflammatory* or a *nervous* nature? The substance of this curious letter is as follows:

Dr. *Felix* luckily called on his friend, a Mr. Gottoch, (*aged seventy years, and of a full corpulent habit,*) at the time he was laid up with the "open form" of gout in his feet, which he jocosely denominated his "*annual doctor.*" Mr. Gottoch was of course *happy* at such a juncture, to see his old friend, Dr. *Felix*, and asked him to look at his *rosy* feet. "The weather being cold, with severe frost on the ground, the inspection was hasty to prevent exposure to the atmosphere." The doctor, after complying with his request, left him for an hour, promising to join his dinner party. On his return, finding dinner was not ready, he went to his old friend to have a little more chat with him. He found him in the same position as he was on his first visit, *i. e.* sitting up in bed "*comfortably* flannelled and bolstered up." Mr. G., after putting his hand several times to his chest as if he were in pain, complained of being fatigued, and laid down. On this change of position, the pains came on, with difficulty of breathing, flushing of the face, &c.; which left no doubt in the doctor's mind, of his patient being afflicted with "*acute* pleurisy." On re-inspecting the feet, they were no longer rosy, the inflammation having subsided. "Dinner being taken up," all the water in which the ham, fowls, cabbage, &c. &c. had been boiled, was put into requisition, and after being emptied into a large tub, the patient "was immersed in this heterogeneous composition to his hips." When in this state, the Doctor opened a vein and allowed the blood to flow till the pain in the chest had nearly abated, and his breathing became easy. The patient was then conveyed to bed, and in a short time the gouty affection of the feet partially returned. "The retrocesssion, *or* translation of the gouty matter *or* action," the Doctor states, was in this case "*strongly* marked."

Now as "the weather was cold *with* severe frost on the ground," and the patient of "a full corpulent habit," may not pleurisy have come on independent of gout, and the determination of blood to the lungs and

pleura have produced a diversion in favour of the gouty "action, or matter?" As the patient had been sitting up in bed for several hours, he might not have been sensible of the inflammation of the pleura having commenced until he lay down; or might not the pleurisy have been kept in check by the gouty "action or matter" in the extremities?

A great deal of nonsense has, in our opinion, been published on the *translation* and *recession* of gout, rheumatism, and diseases of the skin. In gout, the whole nervous system is more or less disturbed; and on allaying the inflammatory action in one part, by cold applications, it will often take place in another; but in such case, are we to suppose that the disease is *translated* to another part?

We some time since met with a case of gouty inflammation in the right foot of a lady, which subsided in a few hours after scalding the right arm. In that case, would any medical man, of experience and observation, say that the gouty affection was translated from the foot to the arm? If Dr. *Felix* were satisfied that "the gouty matter or action" has shifted its residence from the feet to the pleura, why did he not invite it back again to the extremities, by stimulating cataplasms?

Dr. *Felix*, on calling accidentally on his gouty patient, Mr. Gottoch, in about twelve months after he had evinced such great presence of mind, in the prompt employment of the bath of decoction of hams, fowls, cabbage, &c. &c., was informed by him that he had an hydrocele. The doctor examined it, and advised him to submit to the *radical* operation. Mr. G. consenting, the doctor called the following day to perform it. After making an imposing display of instruments, &c. &c., he placed the patient in a proper situation for the operation; but on examining the part, the disease had as *suddenly* disappeared as the gout had from the feet!!! It was, like the gout, *translated*, but to what part the doctor does not say. The removal of such a formidable collection of water, in so short a period, astonished the doctor. A few months afterwards he discovered its "concealed retreat." His general health had given way, his breathing oppressed with slight cough. The complaint of the chest, in a short time, says the doctor, "swallowed up all other complaints, and dropsy of the chest developed itself."!!! After this development, or exposure of the *concealed* translated hydrocele, the patient continued to sink. At length, symptoms of approaching dissolution coming on, the family, who, he says, were *all prepared* for the awful event, requested him to stay till it had taken place. The doctor acquiescing, placed himself by the bed-side, and applied his "finger over the wrist, expecting every *attempt* at respiration to be the last."!! After watching him for several hours, he adjourned to an adjoining room, to take a nap. The nursemaid, in about five hours, awoke the doctor, and told him that her master was dying. The doctor hurried to his situation at the bed-side, and after looking at his face, and examining his pulse, confirmed the nurse's report. The family having assembled to take their final leave of the patient, the doctor assured them that he would announce the termination of life immediately on its taking place. Profound silence and gloom prevailed for half an hour, when, to the

" astonishment and *great* alarm" of the doctor, and all the attendants, the patient opened his eyes, stared at one of his daughters, and suddenly sprang out of bed, and then falling " *all* along," the doctor had time to recover " his *presence* of mind," so as to be soon able to get him into bed. The patient now began to breathe, his pulse rose, and his countenance lost its unfavourable indications; but he afterwards continued insane. About twelve months after this most extraordinary occurrence, or, as Dr. Felix terms it, " *eventful* period," dropsy came on, which, in two months, terminated his existence.

Had Dr. *Felix* been so *happy* as to have discovered the real state of his patient at the time he supposed he was dying, instead of standing for hours by his bed-side with his " finger on the wrist," to give information of his death as soon as it took place, might he not have prevented the alienation of his mind, by blistering and topical bleeding?

Now, how the case or rather cases of this unfortunate Mr. Gottoch should determine the question as to gout being " *inflammatory* or *nervous*," we are at a loss to discover or to conjecture. To the enquiring and observant Dr. Johnson, however, the case affords decisive evidence of gout being of an *inflammatory* nature. The question is the most ridiculous one we ever met with in a *medical* work. Surely, no medical man can be so ignorant of inflammation, as not to know that the nerves are as much concerned in inflammation, if not more, than the blood vessels; indeed, the nerves are first affected, as is evident by the inflammation being preceded by pain; and even increased heat, before the blood vessels are distended, or tumefaction takes place. Dr. Cullen considered gouty action to be *nervous* inflammation; but what is his opinion when opposed by that of the high authority of Dr. James Johnson, and Dr. Felix? Does the narrative prove that " retrocession or translation of gouty *matter* or *action*," does take place? If so, how does it travel? is the "*matter*" conveyed by absorbents without inflaming them, or " *the action*" by nerves? In our opinion, the effusion of serum in the cavities of the chest, which took place after the sudden disappearance of the serum in the vaginal sac, is as strong evidence of the serum of the vaginal sac having been translated to the chest, as the pleurisy was of the " gouty matter or action," being translated from the feet to the pleura. Dr. Felix confesses that he has seldom related the *extraordinary* cure of his unfortunate old patient; " because in general, it was listened to with an *air* of scepticism; but," says he, " I cannot help thinking that it is not unworthy of record or devoid of interest, both in a pathological and *therapeutic* point of view"!!! For our own part, we cannot help thinking that Dr. Dickson, to whom the letter was addressed, has acted an unfriendly part towards Dr. Felix, by publishing such ridiculous nonsense as coming from him.

Under the head of " gout, by the *extension* of another disease," we find the following *practical* remarks. " Certain chronic diseases extend, *as it were*, to the joints and there *imitate* gout; but without any alleviation of the *original* complaint. It is not uncommon, says Hallé, to see painful *chronic* affections of *various* organs assume the character of *wandering* gout, producing on the joints of

the extremities redness, swelling, and even nodosity, with a momentary but fallacious solace of the *internal* evil." In applying, proceeds the doctor, "the *usual* remedies for gouty affections to these *local* determinations, the practitioner will invariably find himself baffled."!! A very pretty definition of *gout* by extension of *another* disease!! In elderly people, with unhealthy viscera or internal organic disease, weak gouty action, or what the doctor terms "imperfect gout" in joints, is a common occurrence. In the 6th section, we have an account of a *transformation* of diseases into gout.—"*Obstinate* diseases of the *skin*," says he, "have been frequently known to *transform* themselves *all at* once into gout of the extremities equally obstinate."!! Gouty people are subject to cutaneous eruptions, particularly free livers; and when a gouty paroxysm comes on, it is common for inflammatory eruptions to disappear; but in such cases, would any medical man suppose that the cutaneous affection was *transformed* into gout, and translated to the extremities?

In the 8th section, under enquiries relative to the *seat* of gout, the learned doctor observes, "various opinions have divided the *medical world* on this point; *morbid* anatomy, however, has now decided the question. The *fibrous tissue*," says he, "is unquestionably the most usual, but by no means the exclusive *theatre* of gouty action, since every *tissue* and *structure* which enter into the *composition* of joints, have been in their turn disorganized by the *gouty process*." In the preface, the observant scientific doctor asserts, that the *open* forms of gout are seated in the *muscular* system, and on this account, he says, "they are painful, and the concealed forms in the *organic* system, which is *naturally* insensible; and in the body of his "*practical* researches," he positively asserts, that morbid anatomy has decided the question as to its seat; viz. that it is in the fibrous tissue and *structure* which enters into the composition of joints!!!

In the section embracing gouty apoplexy, and in other parts, he states that the *white fibrous tissue* covering the *nerves*, is the *favourite* seat of gout; and in his "grand divisions of the human body," he says, "that it is not seated in the nervous system, but in his two first divisions, viz. *muscular* and *organic*." *!!!*

Such inconsistent nonsense is too contemptible for comment. Every practitioner must be aware, that gouty action takes place more in the integuments of a joint than in the interior or the *composition* of the joints. "Conversions of gout into the forms of *other* diseases," he says, "are sometimes developed, in consequence of *imprudent* applications to the joints in which the gouty action *is driven* from its exterior seat of occupation, to an internal part—sometimes by powerful *moral* impressions which disturb the economy of the *living* machine, and *invert* the harmonious order of its movements."!! Hence, says he, "these diseases have been termed *retrocedent*, *misplaced*, and *translated*."

The misplaced and retrocedent species of gout, noticed by Professor Cullen, the learned doctor has ascertained to be only "conversions of gout into the forms of *other* diseases."!! Notwithstanding this important discovery, he has devoted a whole section in another part to "translated gout."!! After having made

such a wonderful discovery as the "conversion of gout into *other* diseases," the observant doctor should have condescended to inform his readers in what disease it most readily *transforms* itself: and if the "*open* and *concealed* forms" are ever transformed into the same disease. Of *nervous* and *spasmodic* forms of *misplaced* gout, he says, "there are *numerous* examples in the organs of sense, particularly in the eye."!!! We have met with instances of spasms in the muscles of eyelids and of the eyes, but this is the first time we have heard of spasm *in* the eye itself. We suspect the doctor discovered these "forms" in his mind's eye, and that the nervous and spasmodic species, like the rest of the divisions, he has made in prosecuting his *practical* researches *on* the open and concealed forms of gout, &c. are all my *eye* and Betty Martin.

Gouty apoplexy he has discovered to be the "worst of all the forms of gout." It is preceded by the ordinary symptoms of impending common apoplexy. As a proof that there is such a "form of gout" as *gouty apoplexy*, the observant investigator notices the case of a lady who, after experiencing severe attacks of gout, was "seized a *second* time with apoplexy *and* palsy on one side."! This, in his opinion, was *clearly* a case of gouty apoplexy, *because* the patient had been affected with gout, or was of a gouty habit!! What, not a gouty subject liable to common apoplexy? Now the fact is, that gouty subjects are, in advanced life, much disposed to apoplexy, and their lives are often terminated by it. His present Majesty, who is gouty, is often under the necessity of losing blood by cupping, in consequence of the vessels of the head being overloaded; and with what view do his physicians order cupping? Assuredly to prevent apoplexy; and is there a medical man who would say that gout has any thing to do with the preternatural determination of blood to the brain, or over-distension of the vessels of the head, in the case of his Majesty? The idea is ridiculous in the extreme. It frequently happens, as we have already observed, that after bleeding a gouty subject, with symptoms of impending apoplexy, a healthy paroxysm of gout takes place in the feet. In such case, we suppose the observant doctor would say, that the affection of the head was gouty, and that, in consequence of bleeding, it was *translated* to the extremities. The fact is, that in consequence of the compression of the brain, the vital powers, and especially the nervous energy, are so reduced, as not to be susceptible of gouty action; and on liberating the brain, by unloading the vessels, the heart properly performs its office, the nervous system recovers its vigour, and a gouty paroxysm takes place, which has been suspended by debility, or deficiency of nervous excitability.

When an elderly gouty person does not suffer from congestion of the blood-vessels of the brain, or is not of an apoplectic make, it is common for his legs to become edematous, and his system much enfeebled, so as not to allow of gouty action taking place in the extremities. On invigorating the system, and unloading the cellular membrane of the legs by diuretic medicines, and by means of rollers, or by friction, a gouty paroxysm, more or less vigorous or healthy, will take place in the feet. In such case, would the learned

doctor term the disease gouty dropsy, or consider it a case of conversion of dropsy into gout?

Anomalous gout the doctor has discovered to *counterfeit* most forms of diseases, sometimes assuming that of epilepsy, and very frequently that of hypochondriasis. The hypochondriacal feelings to which we believe all gouty people are occasionally subject, are only anomalous gout playing pranks, by assuming the form of hypochondriasis!! Most wonderful discovery indeed. If this accurate observer should live long enough to extend his "*practical* researches" to or "*on*" all the diseases that assail human nature, the mystery in which they are enveloped, will, no doubt, be entirely dissipated, and their "*concealed* forms" laid *open* to common investigators!! The doctor, during his "*practical* researches *on* hypochondriasis," has discovered a "*marked* and *painful* sensibility in the vicinity of the cæliac *artery;*" and this *important* fact has satisfied him that "hypochondriasis is *often* no other than a painful *nervous* affection of the cardiac plexuses."!! This discovery, in the vicinity of the cæliac *artery*, the doctor thinks confirms the opinion of the late Dr. Parry, of Bath, that in many *nervous* cases, a determination of blood takes place to the *white fibrous tissue*, termed *neurilema*, which covers the nerves.

The doctor has met with *innumerable* instances, in the course of his "practical researches," of gout affecting the *muscular* parts; but, says he, it is not *always* under the *word* gout they are to be found in the records of medicine; it is, he observes, from among the extensive tribes of *rheumatic*, *catarrhal* and *spasmodic* affections, that his experienced and discriminating eye has detected the *masked* forms of the diseases, and which passed unnoticed by the *superficial* observer."!!

He has also discovered that gout is connected or converted into piles!! In one case, gout followed a suppression of the piles, and in another, gout ceased on the appearance of piles! Such *conversions*, says he, are not *always* desirable, *because* an *intemperate* man, aged forty, "after some pains in the joints, which suddenly disappeared, was seized with a desire to stool, colic, and a discharge of *black* blood downwards; and these symptoms became aggravated towards evening, and *gangrene* put a speedy end to his existence."! This, indeed, we presume, to the patient was not a desirable *conversion* of gout into piles.

Another discovery, very interesting to Europeans, is, "the Chinese and Japanese are *hardly* ever affected with gout, but are *very subject* to *anomalous* gout, which often shows itself in those *sudden* and *colourless* tumours, which induce the *superficial* observing physicians of those countries, to believe that the disease *consists* of WIND; hence," says he, "*their* remedy of puncture by the needle."!!

The doctor has observed, the "parallel between gout, and *certain* other diseases, to be very striking." He particularly instances Saint Anthony's fire, in which, as in gout, the *rigour* is *perceptible;* a swelling follows, with heat, redness, and a great similarity of *aspect*; but the most *characteristic* symptom, *pain*, is not *exactly* the same!! The two diseases are likewise accompanied with a disordered state of the digestive organs; one, however, is preceded by a disordered

stomach, and the other precedes it, but these facts do not alter the *parallel!!*

The investigating doctor, after tracing the causes of "*open* and *concealed* gout, in all their *various* forms," introduces a "recapitulatory view of the *general* causes of gout," which we shall here give in his own words:

"Let us now endeavour to combine the various scattered causes, into three principal classes, viz. 1. A hitherto *unexplained* state of *predisposition*. 2. Derangement in the functions of *digestion and perspiration*. 3. Debility.

"Under the *first* head must be ranged, not only those *hereditary* transmissions, but those organic *qualities* which constitute a predisposition to gout. These organic *qualities*, it is true, are unknown in respect to their *essence*, but they frequently reveal themselves in those forms of body, which we call *Gouty*; in the state of the urine, &c.

"The *second* order of causes, *derangement of the digestive and perspiratory processes*, includes *every thing* which can *break* the *integrity* of these functions.

"The *third* order, or *debility*, may *spring* from any or all of the circumstances previously detailed.

"On a careful survey of the foregoing causes, *predisposing*, *preparatory*, and *exciting*, the effects of which all centre in derangement of the *digestive* and *perspiratory* functions, we shall immediately perceive that a man in a state of real *plethora* presents this *double lesion*, of which indeed the *plethora* is the infallible result, and, as it were, the expression. Hence too, we shall plainly see, that the various causes of gout may be comprehended within the three words, *Predisposition!! Plethora, and Debility.*"!!

Hence the *important* fact appears, that *predisposition* is one of the causes of gout!!! The important results of the doctor's "*practical* researches *on* the open and concealed forms of gout," have led to no practical utility in their treatment, for in this department very few of them are noticed!!! In his account of the various *empirical* treatments, with which he appears to be well acquainted, he observes, under the head of Pradier's Cataplasm, that it acts on the same principle as Dr. Scudamore's spirituous lotion, or embrocation; the former of which containing the balsam of Mecca, and Peruvian bark, is a powerful stimulant, whilst the latter is a sedative!!! In the treatment of the regular form of gout, the doctor particularizes the different stages of the disease, and points out the remedies applicable to each, without noticing the states of the system in which the disease occurs, and by which alone the treatment should be regulated. For instance, in a plethoric person, bleeding, general or topical, may prove very beneficial during a paroxysm of gout; but in a leucophlegmatic habit, it would prove injurious. The mode of living, and the peculiarities of the constitution, must also be taken into consideration. The treatment of regular and irregular gout, is taken chiefly from the treatise on gout by Dr. Scudamore, whom he frequently terms, a "most able physician," and his work, of course, "an *invaluable treatise*;" and from Hallé, Guilbert, and other continental writers, who are celebrated for flights of fancy. By abstaining from any suggestion of his own, rela-

tive to the treatment of the various forms of gout he has discovered, he has shewn more good sense than we were disposed to give him credit for, after perusing his bombastic preface. Under the head of *Sciatica*, he admits that a " patient with whom he was acquainted was cured by a charlatan after the disease had resisted *every* measure which the faculty had proposed." The charlatan kept his bowels very open, by frequent doses of the Epsom salt. " After swallowing," says he, *many* pounds of salts, he got perfectly well, and has continued so ten years."!! For regular inflammatory gout, the doctor recommends the sulphureous water of Harrowgate, both *internally* and *externally*. When it is inconvenient to visit the spring or procure the native water, he says it may be *artificially* prepared by a solution of *sulphuret* of potass (liver of sulphur) sulphate of magnesia (Epsom salt) and supertartrate of potass (Cream of Tartar) in common water. Simple as this recipe is, it betrays great ignorance of the most simple part of chemistry; but we must do the learned doctor the justice to say, that in all his writings, even in his Medical Review, he has never dared to meddle with chemistry. We should have supposed that an apothecary's boy could not be so ignorant of chemistry, as not to know that the sulphate of magnesia would be decomposed by the sulphuret of potass. The new products of the composition will be sulphate of potass and tartrate of magnesia; and the sulphur being precipitated, and insoluble in water, the solution would be as similar to the sulphureous water of Harrowgate, as a solution of common salt or sea water!! Is the doctor, who styles himself a *member* of the College of Physicians, so ignorant of the supertartrate of potass, as not to know that it is a *vegetable* production, and that it does not exist in a *mineral* water!! The external or topical application of such a water, in the form of gout for which he recommends it, would very probably be followed by serious consequences, and in a leucophlegmatic habit might indeed speedily bring the disease to a termination by destroying life. We have gone through every page of the doctor's " Practical Researches *on* the open and concealed forms of Gout," even at the risk of an attack of " gouty apoplexy;" for no less than five times have we experienced the premonitory symptoms, as extreme drowsiness, yawning, dimness of sight, nausea, &c. &c., in the hope of being able to discover some " *practical*" remark to compensate our gouty readers for the disgust which such abominable trash must necessarily have excited in their minds.

The only excuse we can offer for having occupied so much of our journal with his discoveries, &c. is, that it was professedly written by the doctor for the information of the medical profession!! Besides, the doctor, after quitting his navy practice, has done the profession the kindness not only to set up a reviewer of medical works, but to deal largely in them!!!

Our non-medical readers must indeed entertain a contemptible opinion of the state of medicine in this country, on learning that such ignorant productions should meet with any thing like encouragement from the members of the profession. The doctor having exhausted his stock of sonorous words, and rendered them by frequent repetition unamusing, even the most ignorant of his subscribers have become

heartily sick of his jargon, as they had long been of his pedantry and egotism: and those who are capable of thinking for themselves, are ashamed of having countenanced such miserable trash. If members of the medical profession encourage works so totally barren of practical information or any thing like science, they cannot wonder that the public, who is capable of discovering flights of fancy, pedantry and jargonism, from practical knowledge, sound reasoning, and science, should "physic themselves," or that quackery should flourish among the lower classes. Of the merits of Dr. Johnson's "*Practical* Researches *on* Gout," a bookseller, who is very cautious in making bargains, thought so *Highly*, as to venture on printing it on his own account. The work, to the great credit of the profession and gouty subjects, has continued to *rise*, if not in the estimation of the bookseller, in his warehouses; for at this time it occupies an attic room, from whence it will in the usual course find its way to the butter-shop, where we may venture to say, in the space of twelve months, all his works, even his Medico-chirurgical Journal, will be better known than by the London booksellers, to the great disgrace of a few medical men of the metropolis, who have meanly flattered his vanity for the sole purpose of puffing themselves off in his work, as "great physiologists, men of superior talents, acute observation, &c.&c."!!! A mere scribbler, of course, would rather have praise in any work, than no praise; whilst the man of science would consider praise, from a quarter incompetent to form a just estimate of his labours, rather insulting than otherwise,

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL TRANSACTIONS, (*continued from page* 882.)—The twenty-sixth article is a communication from Dr. Kerrison, an eminent physician of London, on a method of effecting a *dilatation of the male urethra*, by inflation, employed in Egypt about 250 years ago. The practice of dilating the male urethra, for the purpose of extracting a calculus from the bladder, Dr. Kerrison thinks originated with some *bold* surgeons (probably ignorant) of the Arabian schools. Octavius Roveretus, an eminent Italian physician, during his residence in Egypt, transmitted the following description of the operation, as performed by an Arab, to his friend, Prosper Alpinus, in Italy:—

"It consists in the introduction of flexible tubes, beginning with the smallest, inflating the urethra and bladder, then introducing larger, and proceeding thus with three or four sizes, until the neck of the bladder and the urethra have been sufficiently dilated to admit the calculus.

"The largest tube being still in the bladder, the operator passes a finger into the rectum, and endeavours to press the calculus into its lower orifice; when he has so done, he applies his mouth to the other extremity of the canula, and draws in breath with the greatest possible effort.

"In the case referred to by Roveretus, the calculus was broken, but he recommends the practice to be adopted, and intimates that a more successful result might have occurred to an operator of greater skill and judgment."

The object of this communication seems to be, to prove that the removal of small calculi from the bladder, by means of forceps, after

dilating the urethra, of which Sir Astley Cooper and his blind admirers have lately made such a noise in the medical world, is like that of puncturing the tympanum, which Sir Astley Cooper brought forward as a *new* operation for deafness, arising from obstruction in the eustachian tube—very old. Repeated experiments have satisfactorily proved that the female urethra may be gradually dilated, in a few days, so as to admit of the extraction of a large calculus, without being followed by any inconvenience; but in the urethra of a male, in consequence of its length, of being surrounded by the *corpus spongiosum*, and especially on account of the prostate gland, the operation is not so practicable; and from the sanguine manner in which some surgeons have spoken of its success, and the facility with which the operation may be effected, we expect soon to hear of serious mischief being done by the attempts of surgeons to perform the operation, who do not possess the degree of firmness of mind and manual dexterity for which Sir Astley has been long celebrated.

The twenty-seventh article contains many valuable remarks on the security afforded by

Vaccination against the contagion of small-pox, from the pen of Dr. Gregory, physician to the small-pox and vaccination hospital, at St. Pancras. By this article, (which is perhaps the only impartial or honest report of the preventive power of vaccination against variolous infection, that has been published from a respectable practitioner, since the introduction of cow pox), it appears that the cases of small pox, after vaccination, have gradually increased since the year 1810, to the present period. From the table the doctor has laid before the Medical and Chirurgical Society, it appears, that in the year 1810, the proportion of cases of small pox succeeding cow pox, *to the whole number of admissions*, was one in thirty; in 1815, it was one in seventeen; in 1819, one in six; in 1821, one in four; and during the year 1822, one in three and a half!

The doctor is satisfied that vaccination modifies *certain* parts of the effects of the small pox poison. He has observed the fact we noticed about three years ago, that the fever preceding the eruption of small pox, in a person that had been vaccinated, run higher than in those who had not been vaccinated. As the failures of cow pox have lately proportionably increased, and we are fearful continue to increase, an investigation, by impartial practitioners, should be instituted by the legislature, to ascertain the *real* cause of the numerous occurrences of small pox after vaccination, and to determine, if it be possible, to obviate them in future. In order to render an investigation effectual, Dr. Gregory has added the following observations to his communication:—

"1. Small-pox after vaccination, unquestionably prevails in particular families; showing, that in them there exists some peculiar susceptibility of the variolous poison. Various instances of the kind have fallen under my own immediate observation, the most striking of which is the following:

"George Ferriman, aged 30, was admitted into the Small-pox Hospital, Oct. 28, 1822, with *pretty severe* modified small-pox; and with him were also admitted his two children, Thomas and

Harriet, both labouring under a *very slight* form of the same disease. The father had been *inoculated for small-pox* when a child, and was always considered to have passed through the disease in a regular way. His children had been *vaccinated*, and their arms exhibited very perfect cicatrices.

"I have seen small-pox attack three individuals of the same family, who had been vaccinated at different ages, in different places, and by different persons. I witnessed this, during the last summer, in the family of a medical practitioner, in the neighbourhood of Red Lion-square.

"2. It is certainly worthy of observation, that the great majority of cases of small-pox subsequent to vaccination, which have occurred at the Small-pox Hospital, have been persons between the ages of 15 and 21. Nineteen is the average age of the whole, as the Table, No. 2, will show. How far this may depend upon accidental causes, or upon the length of time which has elapsed since the general diffusion of vaccination, I am unable to speak decisively. From the fact, however, that many of these persons had been frequently and thoroughly exposed to the contagion, at former periods of their lives, I am induced to entertain the notion, that there is something in the habit of body peculiar to that age, which renders the system more than usually disposed to suffer from the influence of the variolous poison.

"The circumstance now adverted to, has lately become obvious to the world, and it has revived an opinion entertained in the earlier days of vaccination, that its influence on the system wears out in the progress of life, and requires periodical renewals. The notion has latterly been acted upon to a great extent; but I have not been able to ascertain, that the results of *revaccination* correspond with the theory which leads to it.

"3. In any investigation of the causes of small-pox subsequent to vaccination, it would be improper to overlook the remarkable connection that subsists between the degree of perfection in the vaccine cicatrix, and the violence of the secondary disease. This important fact was forced upon my attention by the results of the last year's experience at the Small-pox Hospital. It is, indeed, in opposition to the opinion entertained by several authors of acknowledged reputation; but the extent of my opportunities enables me to speak with much confidence on this point. When the scar on the arm is perfect,—that is, distinct, circular, radiated, and cellulated; but, above all, when it is small, so that it may be covered by a pea;—the secondary affection (if from peculiarity of habit, or any other less ascertained cause, it does occur,) will be slight, and hardly deserve the name of a *disease*.

"On the other hand, whenever the scar is large, and bears the marks of having been formed by high local inflammation, and wants the other distinctive characters just enumerated, the chance of small pox occurring in after-life will be greater, and, *cæteris paribus*, there will be a stronger likelihood of its proving severe.

"This principle receives a striking confirmation from what takes place in *revaccination*. Where the cicatrix is perfect, it is impossible, or nearly so, to reproduce the vaccine disease in any thing like its genuine form. In proportion to the imperfection of the cicatrix, will

be the degree of approximation of the *second* to the *primary* vaccination.

"These considerations tend to establish, *as a pathological principle*, that the occurrence of small-pox, subsequent to vaccination, is dependent upon the *intensity of the vaccine influence, as primarily exerted;* and they lead to the belief, that the appearance of the cicatrix may be taken as a *measure of that intensity.*

"4. The last point to which I am desirous of directing the attention of the society, is the fact, that a very large proportion of those persons who have been admitted, during the last three years, into the Small-pox Hospital, having the disease subsequent to vaccination, had been vaccinated in the country. This may be considered, perhaps, as an *accidental* circumstance. It may be argued, that the domestic servants in London, who, of all persons, may most naturally be expected to resort to an hospital in the time of sickness, are, in a great measure, supplied from the country. It may possibly be owing, in part, to the susceptibility of the disease being increased (here, as in other instances) by change of air; but, making all necessary allowances, the disproportion between those who take small-pox after vaccination in the country, and after vaccination in London, or some other large town, still appears to me so great, that we must seek for an explanation which may have a wider range of influence. I have long been impressed with the notion, that practitioners in the country have frequently vaccinated with lymph which was *not perfect* in its qualities. I am inclined to entertain this opinion, first, from having been able to trace several cases of small-pox after vaccination to *particular* villages, in counties bordering on the metropolis; and, secondly, from having observed that a great proportion of those admitted into the Small-pox Hospital, after country vaccination, had *large, irregular,* and therefore *imperfect* cicatrices.

"If the notions which I entertain of the influence of vaccination on the animal economy, and on the causes of its occasional failure, are correct, their general diffusion might assist, not only in upholding vaccination as an object of great national and individual importance, but in checking those unpleasant occurrences which are now making such alarming inroads on the confidence of the public in the vaccine protection. It would induce practitioners to revaccinate, with fresh and genuine lymph, those whose arms do not exhibit the perfect cicatrix;—it would lead those in the country to apply more frequently to large towns for a supply of recent lymph;—it would point out the propriety of their putting less confidence than heretofore in points and preserved lymph;—and it might impress upon all the *indispensable* necessity of a close attention to every part of that process, which, though of trifling import at the moment, is yet of incalculable consequence to individuals in every future period of their lives."

Of the number of children we have vaccinated within the last twenty-five years, we have not heard of one having been affected by small-pox; and many of them we regularly inoculated with small-pox matter every year, till the patients or their parents were tired of the experiment. We vaccinated seven of our own children, whom we defy any practitioner to infect with small-pox matter. Our opinion

in the preventive power of small-pox in certain constitutions, therefore, remains unshaken. That it has only had a temporary effect on many, is a fact no honest practitioner will deny.

The twenty-eighth article is on the comparative virtues of the different kinds of

Sarsaparilla, by Mr. Pope. The opposite opinions so long maintained by medical men, respecting the medicinal virtues of sarsaparilla, particularly as an alterative, Mr. Pope attributes to the various qualities of the different kinds of the root which are imported into this country. Within the last three or four years, sarsaparilla has been brought from Jamaica, and is generally supposed to be the produce of that island. Mr. Pope has found this species or kind "to differ much from the other sorts in appearance, and still more in the *extract* it yields." It has a peculiar *deep red* external coat, is of close texture, and when cut longitudinally, the part next the outer coat, which is designated as pith in the other kinds, Mr. Pope has observed to be of a deep red colour. Mr. Pope believes that this species of sarsaparilla is the uncultivated produce of the Spanish Main, where it is collected by the natives, or Independant Indians, who barter it for articles of European commerce, to the traders who frequent their shore, and by whom it is carried to Jamaica. The other kinds, more particularly that which is named the *Lisbon*, Mr. Pope thinks are probably the cultivated produce of the places from whence it is shipped direct to England.

Mr. Pope, like Mr. Batley, supposes that the medicinal virtues of the root reside principally in the bark. The virtues, he says, are readily imparted to boiling distilled water, and lime water by infusion. Whether the cultivated root possess any advantage over the uncultivated, or *vice versâ*, we cannot, from experience, give an opinion; but this we know, that there has been more quackery going on in the article sarsaparilla, than any other of the Materia Medica. We have heard of the simple syrup, the concentrated syrup, the concentrated essence, the alcaline infusion, and simple infusion of the root; the extract of the bark, the extract of the root, the powder of the bark, &c. &c.; all of which, we firmly believe, possess no more virtue, either as diluents or alteratives, than decoction of bran or straw.

We have paid as much attention to the *effects* of sarsaparilla in the various diseases for which it has been recommended, with the view of ascertaining its real value, as any medical man in this country. At the Hereford Infirmary we gave it an extensive trial, and we have also particularly watched its effects at Bartholomew's Hospital, and in the private practice of ourselves and others, and the results have satisfied us that it has proved beneficial only as a weak mucilaginous diluent. In cases of inflammatory eruptions of the skin, and of inflammatory affections of membranes of joints, and irritability of the stomach of epicures or people who live freely, the decoction has proved beneficial, but in such cases barley water, or the decoction of the interior part of elm bark, have proved equally, if not more efficacious. In such cases, in fact, it acted only as a diluent, and the same quantity of cheese whey or distilled water, would have had the same effect. In cases of syphilis in an inflammatory habit,

or a person accustomed to high living, it is a valuable auxiliary to mercury, but not more valuable than barley water, and less valuable than decoction of elm bark. That it possesses any antisyphilitic property, which some writers have attributed to it, we believe no modern surgeon will allow.

In leucophlegmatic habits, or in cases attended with general debility, it uniformly proves injurious, by relaxing the stomach. When the decoction is administered in conjunction with mercury for the cure of syphilis in a debilitated subject, it uniformly aggravates the symptoms of indigestion, and on this account it is common for such patients to object to it, "because it makes the stomach washy;" and when long continued in the quantity in which it is generally prescribed, it not only debilitates and relaxes the stomach and intestines, but, in some cases, has occasioned dropsical swellings of the legs. We have known many French gentlemen take the syrup to the extent of a pint a day, till they have been obliged to discontinue it, on account of disordering the stomach and bowels; and some have died of organic diseases of the stomach, which were clearly brought on by the syrup. It is worthy of notice, that elderly patients, who have taken a quart of the decoction of sarsaparilla daily for six months, suffer exceedingly from indigestion. Their extremities in general become emaciated, and their bowels enlarged from effusion of serum in the cellular substance of the viscera, and of relaxation of intestines. This is the disease of which ninety-nine out of a hundred Frenchmen die, who take decoction of sarsaparilla and other diluents, under the ridiculous idea of purifying the blood. In inflammatory habits, and in the inflammatory diseases of the skin, arising from or kept up by high living, or the abuse of vinous or spirituous liquors, the decoction of sarsaparilla may do as much good as the same quantity of barley water, but not so much as the same quantity of cheese whey or butter milk. In cases of debility it will produce disease of the viscera, and hasten the patient to the grave.

In our next number, we intend to notice Mr. Arnot's case of stricture, treated by incision; Mr. Thomas's remarks on the epidemic cholera of India; Sir Astley Cooper's mode of dilating the male and female urethra; and Dr. Philip's observations on the powers of the circulation.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION. — Dr. Laennec, a French physician of great experience and minute observation, asserts, that the existence of those peculiar productions in the cellular substance of the lungs, named tubercles, constitutes *true* consumption. Doctor Duncan, jun. in a very valuable dissertation on the "sanability of consumption," observes, that the evidence of the prevalence of *true* tubercular consumption depends on the most questionable testimony; and as we cannot, says he, justly admit, without actual dissection, the existence of tubercles in every case, said to die of consumption, it is obvious the means of ascertaining the point should be more positive. Dr. Duncan, judging from what he has seen in Edinburgh, believes that a small proportion indeed of cases with consumptive symptoms, are to be referred to tubercular disorder; and the testimony of the late Doctor Willan, in his reports of the diseases of London, leads to a similar conclusion.

Doctor Laennec states that he has discovered, by means of a cylinder (denominated stethoscope) a symptom which he terms pectoriloquism, decisive of tubercular consumption, or at least that stage of it when the tubercles are being or have been evacuated. Doctor Pearson some years ago instituted a series of experiments on the mucus, &c. expectorated by consumptive patients, with the view of discovering some appearance or sign indicative of tubercular consumption, or what is termed a pathognomonic symptom; but the experiments being made with the *whole* of the expectorated mass, the results were far from being satisfactory; for forty-nine parts out of fifty of the expectoration is a secretion from the internal surface of the windpipe and bronchial ramifications, which varies in its appearances and chemical characters according to the degree of temperature of the body and morbid condition of the membrane; the latter of which, in neglected cases of long standing, is often purulent, in consequence of superficial corrosion, which is only evident on microscopical examination. Had the Doctor separated the matter which evidently came from the scrofulous abscesses in the substance of the lungs, he would not have found it tenacious, and its chemical character very different from the mucous secretion of the membranous lining of the windpipe and bronchial tubes. This may be done, as we have stated in our first volume, by agitating the expectorated mass in distilled water; the matter from the abscesses, being heavier than water, will sink; and the secretion from the membranes (in case they are not abraded) being lighter than water, will swim.

There is a great difference between the small scrofulous abscesses which form in the lungs and tubercles. The former, which are generally very numerous, and of the same size as a full-grown tubercle, are depositions of scrofulous lymph, which have advanced to suppuration; and on closely examining the expectoration, the contents of the abscess may be discovered by having a cheesy or curded appearance.

From numerous examinations of tubercles in the lungs of sheep, oxen, pigs, rabbits, as well as of human subjects, we are satisfied that *real* tubercles never suppurate. That they are, as we have stated in our 99th number, parasitical animals, viz. the febrin of the blood deposited in the cellular substance, takes upon itself an independent vitality; and hence the pulmonic tubercles of the animals we have examined, have all the same texture and slight connexion with the lungs. When their peculiar vitality is destroyed, instead of suppuration taking place in them, they putrefy, and the substance, on being broken down, and becoming irritating, makes its way by an ulcerative process into the ramifications of the bronchea, and is expectorated with the mucus which the irritated membrane of the bronchial tubes throw out. The tubercular matter is extremely offensive to the taste, and also evident to the smell of the patient. It may be discovered in the mucus by a dark brown colour. On agitating the expectorated mucus, &c. in distilled water, the putrid matter is separated from the mucus, and remains diffused in the water; no deposit taking place. Here then we have a pathognomonic symptom of tubercular consumption.

In the small scrofulous abscesses, which are generally taken for tubercles, the expectorated matter is sweetish to the taste, and emits no putrid odour; and this is also the case, when the internal membrane of the wind-pipe, or bronchial ramifications is, by the long continuance of chronic inflammation and coughing, abraded. When the membrane is not excoriated, the expectoration has a saline taste. It is of great importance to ascertain the nature of the disease, for the remedies applicable to one species, will prove injurious in the other. It is the tubercular form that Griffith's mixture, and the terebinthinate and ferruginous medicines have proved beneficial, by deterging their cavities; and from our own experience, and the reports of Dr. Laennec, which we shall notice in our next number, we have no doubt of *tubercular* consumption having been cured by the judicious exhibition of such remedies. During their use, it is of the first importance to guard against their stimulating effects on the lungs, by keeping up a determination of blood, and nervous excitement to some part of the body by issues, seton, or perpetual blister; and to keep the system in a quiet state, by a diet free from strong stimulants, but at the same time nutritious, and not entirely free from animal food. If the system be languid, animal food, and even cordials will be necessary.

In three cases of tubercular consumption, we have found the chalybeate water of Brighton, with an anodyne expectorant (gum ammoniac and oxymel of the hedge hyssop) to succeed in restoring the patients to perfect health. The sea air, no doubt, had a beneficial effect in deterging the foul ulcerated cavities. We sent an aged clergyman, apparently in the last stage of consumption, to Brighton in the month of July, with direction to take the chalybeate water, and for the regulation of his diet; and in the course of three months he returned nearly free from cough, and his general health so much improved, that he was capable of performing his clerical duty. It is in tubercular consumption that the inhalation of oxygen has proved beneficial. In our next number we purpose giving an anatomical description of the tubercles of the human lungs and liver, and of those of the rabbit, sheep, pig and ox, and a representation of an improvement of Dr. Laennec's invention, the stethoscope, for ascertaining the actual state of the lungs, in ambiguous affections of them.

DOCTOR JAMES JOHNSON.—This brilliant satellite of the medical world, brother to the sun, and first cousin to the moon, has condescended to inform the *scientific* readers of his Quarterly Journal of theatrico-jargonic medicine, that he is not the Dr. J. Johnson who died in the Albany about three months ago; that he has not insulted the surgeons of this country, and "the association of physicians and surgeons of which he has the *honour* of being superintendent," by going to France for medico-chirurgical advice; and in order to remove the deep melancholy gloom which the report of his indisposition, and his having "gone to the shades," must necessarily have produced on the mind of his admirers, he has added a piece of information, of immense importance to the scientific part of the community, that he "never enjoyed *robuster* health; and that, during

all his travels through France, Italy, and Germany, and his voyage from Dover to Calais, he *never* took *any* physic"—a certain proof of the doctor being a wise man, if any were wanting. The forlorn or hopeless condition of no less than three of the doctor's literary productions, and the alarming *phthisical* symptoms his journal of theatrico-jargonic medicine (in which all his fond hopes were centered), in consequence of his phraseological embellishments having, from frequent repetition, lost their fascinating effects on the minds of his weak readers, and of our officious exposure of theatrico-jargonic medicine, having enabled his readers to distinguish froth from substance, rendered a "trip to the continent" necessary, not only to divert his mind from the melancholy situation of his literary productions, but to enlarge his physiological vocabulary, in order to enable him to prolong the life of his darling journal. To convince his readers that he has improved his peculiarly imposing phraseology, he has condescended to amuse and edify them with a second edition of the tirade of fine sonorous words and ingenious inventions, with all the embellishment the addition to his vocabulary has enabled him to make; and this wonderful exhibition of courage and gentlemanly language, he flatters himself, will satisfy his discerning readers, that in reviewing his books, we have been actuated by unworthy motives!!!

The pretty specimen of *gentlemanly* language the doctor has given, must at least excite the admiration of his *scientific* readers; and his associated physicians and surgeons, which the *liberal* doctor superintends, may consider his tirade of stupid scurrility and falsehood a refutation of our analysis of his books!!! The fact is, the Doctor, on his return from the continent, had the mortification to find, that such an exposure of his book concerns had taken place during his absence, as would probably render the cargo of craniological and phrenological knowledge—his important addition to his "*liber verborum*" and theatrical quotations, useless. Three literary productions had been conveyed to that bourne from whence no *entire* book returns—the butter-shop; and his favourite work, the journal of theatrico-jargonic medicine, which he had left with the symptom of phthisis, had received a mortal wound from the "Lancet," in consequence of the operator having touched a *vital* part. Of the effects of misfortunes like these on the mind of an author, no one can form an idea, except authors themselves; they disturb even the cerebro-cutaneo-pulmonico-hepatico-gastro-rectum sympathies, even in the "robustest constitution" of indigent scribblers, who are apparently destitute of any sympathetic feelings whatever. On a man of such acute sensibility as the promulgator of the brilliant system of sympathies must possess, and who for so long a period as six years had been evidently smarting under the seasonable application of our lash, a trifling misfortune affecting his book trade was likely to excite fever; or, according to the doctor's augmented vocabulary, "lesion of the *functions* of the cerebral tissue." To add to his chagrin, some admirers of his "verbose sublimities," made the unlucky discovery, that the association of physicians and surgeons which he superintends for conducting his theatrico-jargonic medical

journal, existed only in the doctor's "cerebral tissue;" and that the doctor was, not only a physician and esquire, but also a bookseller—a pretty piece of intelligence for the censors of the College of physicians!!! That the doctor should discharge another volley of words against us, who have explored and exploded his literary quackery and bombastic nonsense, does not astonish us.

The tremendous volley from the new phraseological ordnance the Emperor of theatrico-jargonic medicine had brought from Italy, most advantageously placed in his "extra limites, periscope, and opiological" episode batteries, we returned by a squib of facts directed to his subscribers, who have, in return, censured us for having made the Emperor, or superintendent of the "cerebo-phantomico-medico-chirurgical association," of such consequence as to attend to his "vituperative" rodomontade.

In our next number, we shall give an analysis of his book on the influence of civic life, sedentary and "mendacious" habits, and *intellectual* refinement, on human health of the *different gradations* of society.—We shall then condescend to collect our reviews of all his works, and publish them in a small pamphlet, with an address to the profession on their indirect sanction of quackery by encouraging jargonic medicine, to which we shall add, all the interesting information of which our circular letter to his subscribers have put us in possession. Those of our readers who may feel a desire to see our circular letter, which contains the second edition of this tirade of scurrilous and ingenious invention, (which we fully answered in our 35th number, the month after the *first* edition appeared,) and his pretty specimen of the English language, polished in Italy, may obtain a copy gratuitously at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly. In that "periscope" we intend to expose a conspiracy against the progress of medical science by a set of contemptible journalists.

INDIGESTION, FLUOR ALBUS, &c.—A lady of respectability informs us, that she has received most essential benefit from the following mixture, prescribed by Sir Henry Halford, Bart., in a case of fluor albus, attended with indigestion, general relaxation, swelling of the legs, fluttering of the heart, &c.

Take of Decoction of Rhatany Root, seven ounces;
Tincture of Lupulin,
Compound Spirit of Ammonia, of each, three drachms.

Mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

LEPROUS AFFECTIONS *of the* SKIN, INFLAMMATION *of the* EDGES *of the* EYELIDS, &c.—Mr. Heiton, a scientific surgeon-apothecary, has found the topical application of the following ointment very beneficial in scrofulous inflammation of the edges of the eyelids and of the eye, leprous and other chronic affections of the skin:

Take of Iodine, one grain;
Calomel, thirty grains;
Spermaceti Ointment, half an ounce.

Rub the Iodine and calomel together in a glass mortar, and then add the ointment. To be applied to the affected part every night, or every night and morning.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 102.] To JUNE 1, 1824. [Vol. IX.

THE NEW LONDON PHARMACOPŒIA.

Mr. Richard Phillips, the chemical luminary of the East, has published a translation of the new Pharmacopœia, with chemical annotations, chiefly for the use of medical students, to give a concise explanation of the chemical changes which take place during the preparations of medicine, of the qualities which indicate their perfection, and of the means of detecting adulteration. With the view of more clearly explaining the nature of the chemical compounds, and of describing the circumstances in which they differ from each other, he has deviated in a few instances, under the head of alcalies and other salts, from the alphabetical arrangement of the College; but the translation, he says, he has rendered as literal as the English language would admit of. Important as it unquestionably is, that the shops of compounders of prescriptions should be supplied with pharmaceutical preparations, faithfully and carefully made, according to the pharmacopœia of the College, in order that they may be obtained at a regular and requisite strength not only for the benefit of patients, but the reputation of prescribers; Mr. Phillips ventures to assert there cannot be any objection to the adoption of other modes of making the articles, provided they do not differ from the preparations made by following the collegiate instructions. For instance, if, in making the carbonate of potass, or soda, a *perfect salt* be obtained, it must be indifferent to the College whether the carbonic acid were evolved from the decomposition of marble by sulphuric acid, or from chalk by the muriatic acid. This observation certainly comes with great propriety from a chemist who makes pharmaceutical articles on a large scale for the use of apothecaries; but we suspect the College of Physicians will not allow any deviation from the directions they have given for the preparations they prescribe for their patients; and if they were to leave the processes to the discretion or chemical whimsicalities of the wholesale chemists, the medicines prescribed by physicians would very materially differ when compounded at different shops. Indeed, notwithstanding the order in Council, requiring every apothecary to follow the instructions of the College in making their pharmaceutical preparations, at the risk of incurring His Majesty's displeasure, and the clause of the Apothecaries' Act, subjecting them to a severe punishment for not *faithfully* compounding prescriptions, we may venture to say that not one apothecary's or chemist's shop, out of one hundred in London, or throughout the country, is supplied with pharmaceutical articles made according to the pharmacopœia of the College; and yet all profess to "compound prescriptions faithfully" !!! If the legitimate physicians were acquainted with the characters of drugs, and the means of ascertaining their purity, this fraud would not have been carried on for such a length of time with impunity.

"There is one curious and interesting department of science," says Mr. Phillips, "which has been much and long neglected—the *crystalline forms of salts.*" To ascertain that it has been in a very imperfect state, he advises his readers to compare the statements of the most respectable chemical writers. "With *one* exception," says Mr. P., "I am indebted for *all* I have given upon this subject to *my friend* Mr. Brooke, and to the papers which he has contributed to the 'Annals of Philosophy.' The path which Mr. Brooke is yet pursuing," he says, "he feels confident (which nobody who knows Mr. P. will doubt) he will meet with facts, that will enrich chemical science with much *curious* and *useful* information." Curious and useful information from the mere forms of the crystals of different salts!! To a mere chemist, the varieties of crystals of salts may be *highly* interesting; but if Mr. Phillips were acquainted with the practice of surgeon-apothecaries, he would know that to them they can prove neither curious nor interesting. The study of anatomy, physiology, pathology, surgery, pharmacy, and the other branches of medicine, is sufficiently extensive to occupy the mind of any surgeon-apothecary; and the study of any flowery department of chemical philosophy is, in our opinion, more likely to prove hurtful than otherwise, by diverting his mind from the phenomena of diseases, and the branches of philosophy more intimately connected with his practice. We have heard of Dr. Babington travelling two hundred miles to inspect some curious crystals of minerals, who would not go, at his own expense, twenty miles to see the most extraordinary disease. There may be nothing incorrect in this, in a man of independent fortune; but we confess that we should entertain a bad opinion of the professional abilities of a physician, who engages his mind so enthusiastically in any favourite pursuit unconnected with medicine.

In the materia medica department of the Pharmacopœia, Mr. Phillips has omitted *lactuca;* and in the second column, opposite *cardamomi semina,* he continues the name of the former pharmacopœia, *eletteria cardamomum,* instead of *matonia cardamomum;* which, in compliment to Dr. Maton, the College has adopted from Dr. Smith, in Rees's Cyclopædia.—So much for the translation being "as literal as the circumstances would allow"!! What circumstance would not allow of his paying Dr. Maton a compliment, to which the most eminent botanists *allow* him to be justly entitled?

Acidum aceticum dilutum, Mr. Phillips translates, *diluted* acetic acid; and the Scotch Physician, who has published a translation, the *dilute* acetic acid. Mr. Phillips, as a *literal* translator, is correct; but as a *chemist,* we conceive the Scotch Physician is more correct; for the acid never having been in a concentrated state, being common vinegar distilled, the Scotch Physician has very properly termed it *dilute* acetic acid. Had the College ordered the strong acetic acid to be diluted with distilled water, as they have the sulphuric acid for the acidum sulphuricum dilutum, which would have been more scientific, it would have been properly termed *diluted* acetic acid. As they thought proper to order the dilute acid to be obtained by distillation, they should have termed it *acidum aceticum tenue.* MALT *vinegar,* Mr. Phillips says, is composed of a *little*

alcohol mucilage, colouring matter, *sulphuric acid*, and water. When the acetous fermentation of malt liquor is properly completed, some chemists deny that it contains alcohol; and as to the genuine malt vinegar, who ever heard of its containing *sulphuric* acid? It is true it exists in the vinegar made by the manufacturers of vinegar for traffic, who are permitted by act of parliament to add to it one thousandth of its weight of sulphuric acid. "The mucilage which rises in distillation with the dilute acid," he says, "renders the use of it *inconvenient* for some purposes; especially the preparations of some acetates—that of potass, for example. When the distilled vinegar is saturated with the alcali, the solution becomes brown and deposits a dark precipitate; derived," says Mr. Phillips, "from the *decomposition* of the mucilage." This impurity Mr. Phillips has found difficult and tedious to separate, so as to obtain *pure* and *white* acetate of potass. It is on this account, Mr. P. conceives, the College have introduced the *strong* acetic acid into the materia medica. A gallon of the dilute acetic acid, or distilled vinegar, does not contain four grains of mucilage; and when neutralised by *pure* potass or soda, scarcely any deposit takes place. If the College introduced the strong acetic acid on account of the dilute acetic acid, or distilled vinegar, containing so small a quantity of mucilage, why have they not ordered the liquor of acetate of ammonia to be made with it? If the acetic acid obtained by fermentation be concentrated in the same manner as that obtained by charring wood, viz. by decomposing the acetate of lime with sulphuric acid, it will be equally free from mucilage.

For the purpose of decomposing marble, to saturate the solution of potass, for making what the College terms the *carbonate of potass*, Mr. Phillips recommends the muriatic acid to be employed in lieu of the sulphuric, because it is not only as cheap as the latter, in consequence of the reduction of duty on salt, but because the muriate of lime is more easily removed from the vessel than the sulphate of lime!! He afterwards observes that the muriatic acid may again be separated, by decomposing the muriate of lime by the sulphuric acid, so that sulphate of lime is still to be formed!!! A very serious objection to the use of muriatic acid to decompose the marble is, a portion of it is apt to escape in an aerial form with carbonic acid gas, and the product, viz. the carbonate of potass, made by this process, will of course contain a small proportion of the muriate of potass.

The article termed the sub-carbonate of potass by the College, Mr. Phillips says, is a carbonate, and that termed carbonate, a *bi-carbonate*, because it consists of *two* atoms of acid, and one of base. Some have termed the latter preparation a *carbonate*, because the alcali is neutralised by the acid; and if we are to attend to the proportions of the acid to the base, or to chemical nicety, we would ask this chemical luminary, What is the proportion of the carbonic acid to the potassium, with which it is said to unite? If the name is to be governed by the number of atoms of each, is the product to be termed a bi-carbonate, or a tri-carbonate? Pharmaceutically speaking, when the acid, as the sulphuric or carbonic, is only sufficient to neutralise the alcali, let the number of atoms of each be what they may, it is a sulphate or a carbonate: when not sufficient, the article is a sub-sulphate or sub-car-

bonate; and when the acid is in excess, it is a super-sulphate or super-carbonate; and this applies to all the salts. The distinctions of the French chemists, adopted by Mr. Phillips, may, by philosophical chemists, be considered very scientific; but to a pharmaceutical chemist, they are ridiculous and pedantic. Mr. Phillips, under each article, notices what the French chemists term *incompatibles; i. e.* articles which being mixed will undergo decomposition; and in this he and his friend Thompson have made a most imposing display of chemical science.

The practitioner of experience and observation, although as well acquainted with chemistry as themselves, will rather estimate a composition by its effects on the system, than by its chemical characters. If the articles do undergo decomposition, new combinations form; and when introduced into the stomach, no chemist can say what decompositions and new combinations take place. The compound mixture of iron, and other mixtures of the Pharmacopœia, although, according to the long lists of incompatibles of the chemical luminaries of the east and west, are unscientific, have proved more efficacious than when rendered chemical. We do not mean by these remarks to undervalue a knowledge of chemistry, but to say that the value of a prescription, or the qualifications of the writer, is to be determined more by the *effects* of a composition than its chemistry. A mixture of an alcali and a neutral salt, we have heard by a chemist deemed unscientific, because they were incompatibles, and yet such mixture is very proper when an acid predominates in the stomach. In fact, the incompatibles noticed by the two luminaries, are chemical and not medical incompatibles.

GOUT.

Dr. Alexander P. Buchan says he has witnessed, in many cases of gout, the most decided relief from enveloping the part affected in a poultice, containing a large proportion of camphor. The patient frequently falls asleep soon after it is applied, and wakes in comparative ease. The doctor never knew any bad consequences to result from this practice. Dr. Scudamore, and other physicians, speak highly of the beneficial effects of a topical application of camphor, in the form of cataplasm, in allaying the pain, and hastening the termination of a paroxysm of gout. A French Physician some time since observed to us, that he was satisfied that camphor possesses a peculiar electrical property; and that on rubbing the skin with it, by means of flannel, he has observed electric sparks to escape from the surface. To this quality he refers its salutary effects in gout and rheumatism. The camphorated poultice, employed by Dr. Buchan, has certainly the great recommendation of not being a repellent. Dr. Pointier says, that camphor is decidedly an anodyne, and that to this property the relief it affords in gout and rheumatism is to be ascribed. It is, at any rate, when applied to the skin, a powerful stimulant; and its beneficial effects in gout and deep seated pain, probably arise from its action on the skin as a rubifacient.

In our next Number we shall enter more fully on the system of prescribing compounds, which the learned chemical incompatibalists,

Mr. Philips, Mr. Thompson, and Dr. Paris, are endeavouring to establish, for the purpose of obtaining celebrity as philosophical chemists, and especially the Rules which have been laid down by the learned pharmacologist, Dr. Paris, to enable physicians to write scientific prescriptions.

Mr. Phillips being unacquainted with the treatment of diseases, and the effects of medicine on the human body, his translation of the Pharmacopœia is miserably deficient in that branch of medicine termed *therapeutics*, which to surgeon-apothecaries and apothecaries, is of much greater practical utility than the tinsel of a department of science, which is very far from being established on a solid basis; the most celebrated professors differing in opinion as to products and educts. In our next Number we shall finish our comments on Mr. Phillips's translation, and his quotations from Dr. Paris's Pharmacologia.

ASTHMA.

A respectable gentleman, who has been subject to asthmatic attacks for nearly twenty years, informs us, that he has uniformly found the following draught to terminate the paroxysm in a few minutes, and a repetition of it the following day, to remove entirely the effects of it, and to render breathing perfectly easy:—

Take of Tincture of colchicum seeds, thirty drops;
Prussic acid, one drop;
Ipecacuan wine, forty drops;
Camphorated julep, one ounce.—Mix.

He adds, that since he has adopted the sassafras cocoa for breakfast and supper, recommended in a late number of our work as a substitute for tea and coffee in cases of asthma, indigestion, and atonic gout; he has continued free from any symptom of indigestion, and has enjoyed good health, although in the 68th year of his age.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

SIRS,—To prove my supposition, that quinine is a product and not an educt, Dr. Williams states, that if sulphuric or the muriatic acid be employed, the article is the same; now, Sirs, I am not aware that I have stated that the sulphuric acid enters the composition of quinine. —It merely acts by disturbing the combination or organization of the bark, of which quinine is a consequence. Another proof that quinine is not a *new* product, in Dr. Williams's opinion is, it contains the *medicinal* and *chemical* properties of the Peruvian bark. Now, sirs, is it extraordinary that new products, from the disorganization of an article, should produce effects on the stomach or body similar to those of the article, from the derangement or decomposition of which it was produced? Now, most learned Dr. Williams, can you say what decomposition of the Peruvian bark (either in powder, decoction, or infusion) takes place in the human stomach? Will you say that quinine, or the gastrate of quinine, is not produced there? With respect to the doctor's assertion, that quinine contains the medicinal and chemical characters of Peruvian bark, I really do not understand them.

He insinuates that quinine is not a compound; and yet, he says, it contains all the properties of the *other* constituents of the bark!!

The quinine is certainly not so astringent as the resin of the bark; and being free from resin and tannin, how can the doctor assert that it contains *all* the *medicinal* and *chemical* properties of the bark? But if the article be only an educt, why take the trouble to separate it from the other parts of the bark? "If my theory be correct," says Dr. Williams, "neither emetine nor morphia could be produced;" without giving any reason for his assertion. I say that emetine and morphia are new products; the first from the decomposition of ipecacuan, and the other from opium: and why the fact of their possessing the medicinal properties of the articles, prove the contrary, I am at a loss to conjecture. In another place he states, that the "resin of bark is quinine, combined with extractive and other impurities." How does this analysis prove that, by decomposing the resin, new combinations, of which quinine is one, do not form? The fact noticed by Dr. Williams proves the truth of my assertion; for in the first place, the resin is perfectly pure and insoluble in water.—When decomposed, a combination is produced termed quinine, which is soluble in water, and *impurities* appear!! What are these impurities but new products? I am really at a loss to guess, why the fact of iodine being obtained from sea-weeds, as well as from burnt sponge, militates against my opinion of its being a new product, and not an educt. If it be an educt, why does not an article so volatile escape during the process of calcination of the sponge? I beg to thank Dr. Williams for his kindness, in recommending me to employ my *leisure* hours in endeavouring to detect spirit in sugar, and vinegar in barley. After stating in my letter, that alcohol or spirit is a new product from decomposition of saccharine matter, and that vinegar is a new product from the decomposition of wine, the doctor's recommendation is certainly very consistent. In return, allow me to recommend him to endeavour to prove, by *liberal* and *scientific* discussion, that my "extraordinary opinions," as he has been pleased to term them, are not correct. I have taken up the subject to check the *mania* of chemistry, which has long raged among a certain set of philosophers in this grand city, and which has made its appearance in London.

From the remarks on my opinion by Mr. Goulson, which appear in your 99th Number, I suspect that he has mistaken my assertion respecting the production of carbon during fermentation. *Every chemist boy, who is capable of eating a raisin*, he says, KNOWS *that more than a third of its weight is charcoal!!!* This is indeed *strong* evidence of the fact.—But how is it proved? by analysis: and was not the charcoal a new product, and not an educt? With respect to metals discovered in soda and potass by Sir H. Davy, the opinion that they are new products generally prevails throughout Germany. Mr. Goulson is certainly a most excellent chemist: if no lime, says he, is taken with the food, no lime will be found in the bones!! The animal body has no power of producing lime!! It can produce phosphoric acid, uric acid, ammonia, &c. &c. &c., but not lime!! Is there a physiologist in Europe who will agree with him in this opinion? Is not phosphate of lime deposited by the secerning extremities of arteries

in the bones; and in cases of deficiency of the phosphate of lime in bones, has the exhibition of lime been of any service? The next sensible thing this learned *chemist* will assert, I suspect will be, that the living animal body has no power of assimilation, or of forming new products from vegetable food.—No, no, the lime of bones, the phosphoric acid, and other parts termed animal matter, all primarily existed in the vegetable food taken for nourishment of the body.—By the process of digesting it is only separated!!

I am, Sirs, your obedient Servant,

Paris, March 26, 1824. J. S. EDWARDS, M. D.

SYMPTOMS OF DISEASES.

The scientific and experienced physician, Dr. Alexander P. Buchan, Fellow of the Linnean Society, and late Senior Physician to the Westminster Hospital, has lately published the lecture he was in the habit of delivering every season to the pupils of the Westminster Infirmary, (when he held the important office of physician to it) on the symptoms of diseases, under the title of "*Symptomatology*, or the art of distinguishing diseases." The doctor commences his lecture with the observation, that "since the *earliest* period of which we possess any *authentic* records concerning the *science* of medicine, the *art* of curing diseases has been separated into *two* departments, viz. physic and surgery." This is an unfortunate beginning, for every person acquainted with the ancient records of medicine knows that ancient medicine was chiefly surgical. Hippocrates and his cotemporaries, and their pupils, practised physic and surgery, and did not attempt to make any distinction, considering surgery a part of physic. The division is of modern date, and owes its origin to the spirit of monachism, or, which is in fact the same thing, an attachment to the loaves and fishes: it was in fact a conspiracy of the physicians of that time, who were more ignorant of medicine than the farriers of the present day, and the surgeons, who were also barbers, to pick the pockets of their unfortunate dupes. Hippocrates was a great physician, because he was well acquainted with surgery; and his surgery is by far the most valuable part of his works. Whether the division of the *science* of medicine into physic and surgery has any *just* foundation, is a question which Dr. Buchan declines to discuss. That they are intimately connected, every practitioner admits, the basis of both being in fact the same; the only question therefore is, Is a knowledge of both too extensive for the human comprehension? If it be not, does not a knowledge of one strengthen that of the other? Indeed we will go further, and ask if a person can be entitled to the denomination of physician, who is unacquainted with surgery, or the practitioner to that of surgeon, who is not acquainted with physic? The doctor very properly leaves the decision of this question to common sense, which has of late years undermined the disgraceful fabric of the monachism of medicine, the spirit of which has for the last thousand years effectually arrested the progress of the *science* of medicine. Whatever difference of opinion may exist among the interested advocates for legitimate or monastic medicine and the modern physicians, who study medicine for the benefit of mankind, Dr. Buchan boldly asserts, "that during a state of society when man-

kind sustained themselves on *simple* food, as the ancient Romans, who lived chiefly upon boiled barley, and were comparatively little acquainted with the art of producing fermented drinks, and passed their time chiefly in active exercises in the open air, constitutional diseases were of rare occurrence; and when they did occur, though of a *simple* nature, were little understood, being attributed to the malignant aspects of the planets, or to the influence of evil spirits, against the operation of which, prayers, exorcisms, and amulets, were then relied upon as the most efficient prophylactics." !!!

Such indeed was the wretched state of medicine in Rome and in London, when the charter was granted by the *virtuous* and *enlightened* King Henry the VIIIth to the College of Physicians; and in those days, if not in the present, among certain legitimates, the person who promulgated any discovery, or proposed any thing bearing the semblance of innovation, was viewed with a jealous eye, being generally suspected of an intention of upsetting these *sacred* rights of *legitimate* medicine, which as a part of catholicism was of course perfect!! With respect to the difference of opinion which exists as to the *proper* limits of the two branches of medicine, viz. physic and surgeons, or rather the *fair* division of the loaves and fishes, Dr. Buchan observes, "To me it appears, that the practitioners of surgery *might be satisfied* by conceding to them the treatment of *all those diseases*, which *originate* in dialysis, or solution of continuity, whether of the *external* or INTERNAL parts composing the structure of the living body. Let it be remembered," says he, "that this partition of the healing art allots to the surgeon the treatment of every species of wound, fracture, and luxation, burns, bites, and excoriations, ulcers, fistulæ, cancer, caries, &c.; including, moreover, *all diseases*, which manifest their presence by *external* symptoms, as all the procedentia, or ruptures, every species of deformity, whether connate or acquired; of course the treatment of all excisions, or amputations, which are voluntarily submitted to with the view and hope of maintaining the life of the whole body, at the expense of the loss of a part, or with the purpose of preventing protracted misery by the infliction of pain, more acute for the time, but of comparatively short duration.

"If among dialyses be comprehended the rupture of internal blood vessels, we shall consign," proceeds the doctor, "to the surgeon the treatment of a class of diseases not generally considered as pertaining to *his* province, as the discharges of blood originating from a solution of continuity of the coats of the internal blood vessels have been arranged by nosologists among the *fluxes* or *profluviæ*, the treatment of which has in general been considered as belonging to the province of the physician. But as the use of the lancet can rarely be dispensed with in cases of active hæmorrhage, the point may be compromised by admitting the propriety of combining the science and skill of both branches of the profession in cases where their united efforts are frequently required to subdue disease and preserve life."

If physicians agree to concede the treatment of *internal* rupture or *internal* structural disease to surgeons, they will find that their share of the loaves and fishes will be small indeed; for where is the physician to be found, who can say that indigestion, hysteric fits, asthma,

hypochondriasis, and even fevers, a set of diseases from whence physicians derive their means of support, do not arise from, or are dependant on some *internal* disorganization. Indigestion, a very productive source of wealth to the physician, is a symptom of different diseases; and the affection of the stomach is generally sympathetic of some organic derangement either of the uterus, liver, spleen, or some part of the intestinal canal, in which case the complaint would belong to the province of the surgeon, and all we shall say on the subject is, fortunate will it be for the patient if he should submit his case to the care of a surgeon, or a physician acquainted with surgery.

Of late years, in consequence of a general diffusion of knowledge, it has been said that the middle classes of this country have become ambitious: Tailors, styling themselves clothiers; the shops of shoemakers, denominated shoe warehouses; grocers and tallowchandlers, merchants; retailers of spirits, importers; and farmers and bankers' clerks, esquires. The sons of these people, who have thus nominally raised their ranks in the community, must of course be respectably settled in life. Hence they are brought up to a profession, a trade being derogatory from the dignity of the parents; and medicine being attended with the least expense, sixteen out of twenty are brought up to it. We heard a farmer, who styles himself an esquire, observe that *he* would *make* his son Jemmy a *doctor*, and he was *sure certain* he would soon *extinguish* himself by writing, because he knows latin as well as the best of *hum*, and is up to a thing or two! Of the medical men of this country, eighty out of every hundred were brought up to medicine, merely because their parents thought it a *genteel* profession. One half, at least, having, therefore, no taste for the study of medicine, the following remarks of Dr. Buchan, will not surprise our readers:

"I have," says the doctor, "known instances of medical men, who even after *long-continued* experience could never clearly ascertain the nature and distinction of diseases, nor even put questions pertinent to their investigation; while others, as was said of the celebrated Fothergill, appear to possess an almost intuitive perception of the state of their patients. The possession or the absence of this faculty constitutes, in fact, the main difference between one medical practitioner and another. What Lord Bacon says of love seems applicable to disease: 'Love,' says he, 'is not manifested by staring in the face, but is communicated by slight glances, and sudden quick sparkles of the eye.'

"Symptoms indicating deranged action, or disease, have been arranged under four general heads:—

"Diagnostic, indicating the present state of the patient.

"Anamnestic, relating to his previous state of health and habits.

"Prognostic, or opinions respecting the probable event of the disease.

"Pathognomonic, distinctive of the peculiar disease with which the patient is affected.

"A variety of circumstances render it often difficult to elicit from patients the truth, which we wish to discover, Internal sensations are

always obscure, and therefore difficult to express, and the perception of them is frequently disturbed by the presence of unhealthy action. Disease, existing in one particular viscus, is frequently indicated by pain perceived in a distant part of the body: affections of the liver, for example, by pain in the shoulder. In examining patients, we have moreover to contend with anxiety of mind, with unintentional misrepresentation, arising from the object of our queries not being understood. Clearness of intellect too is more or less obscured by the presence of disease, and thus common forms of expression do not always convey the same ideas to the patient and the practitioner. Even the friends of patients frequently mislead by what they consider as well-meant misrepresentations respecting the previous habits and conduct of the sick person.

We should, therefore, be careful not to trust too much to the replies of patients or their friends to our verbal inquiries in the investigation of disease, but in preference attempt to interrogate nature herself. Doubtless there exists a pathological physiognomy well worth the attentive study of the industrious practitioner. Every internal disease of a serious nature imprints upon the countenance of the patient a certain cast, or air, from which the attentive physician may derive an important diagnostic.

It is related of the celebrated Dr. Stoll of Vienna, that he could distinguish the trade of every artisan, who applied to him for advice, by the peculiarity of his manner. I am myself acquainted, says Dr. B. with an individual, who possesses a considerable share of this peculiar discriminative faculty. Let us reflect, that the veterinary practitioner, and those persons who make infantile diseases the chief object of their attention, have no other means of guiding their judgment than attentive observation. The possession of this discriminative faculty in perfection constitutes what has been termed the scientific tact, and forms, perhaps, the ultimate perfection of medical talent.

The best plan of classifying the symptoms of diseases, to impress them on the mind, Dr. Buchan thinks is to arrange them according to the principal functions, by means of which the life of organised beings is maintained, and the interruption of which constitutes disease. According to this plan, the association of symptoms is, in our opinion, a confused mass, some of them being characteristic, diagnostic, prognostic, and sympathetic, and many common to all the diseases incident to the human race. Many of them are frequently idiopathic affections; and some of the diseases, of which they are given as symptoms, as indigestion, dropsy, &c., are in fact only symptoms, or symptomatic affections. Such a classification to the student, or young practitioner, for whom works of this kind are published, would only conduct him into a labyrinth, from which he would probably not extricate himself at the bed-side of the patient without betraying *symptoms* of ignorance.

A far more intelligible plan, or plan more likely to assist a student, or young practitioner, in ascertaining a disease at the bed-side of a patient, would be to divide the symptoms into classes, as indicative of different diseases, as

1stly, The pathognomonic symptoms, which distinguish one disease from another.

2ndly, The combination of symptoms which constitutes a disease, with a comparative view of the combination of them forming certain diseases with those which resemble them, and the absence or presence of such symptoms bywhich the disease may be distinguished.

3dly, The immediate, or local symptoms, as those of the part in which the disease is seated.

4thly, The sympathetic symptoms, or those arising from nervous connexion, or from some established sympathy.

5thly, Current symptoms, or those which are apt to occur during the progress of the disease, either of favourable or unfavourable import.

Such a plan might facilitate an acquaintance with the symptoms of diseases; but we are satisfied that a perfect knowledge of symptomatology, and especially indications, is only to be obtained by long experience and close observation; for no teacher can give such a description of symptoms that will enable a practitioner to form a just opinion of the nature or probable termination of a malady. The peculiar expressions of countenance, the appearance of the eyes, the peculiar feel of the skin, odour of the perspiration, the involuntary action of the muscles of the arm, evident by the motion of the tendons on feeling the pulse, the peculiar manner in which the arteries pulsate, the posture of the patient, the mode of articulating, the manner in which he expresses himself, dreams, and fifty *et ceteras*, all acting as it were together, throw more light on a disease, to the man of experience and observation, than all the lectures and *practical* treatises that have been delivered or published on the subject. The practitioner who is satisfied with the knowledge of symptoms of diseases he obtained from his teacher, or by reading, is in fact a dangerous quack, inasmuch as he is sure to concatenate with the name of the disease he detects by a characteristic symptom, or certain combination of symptoms, the remedies which his teacher recommended for its cure. For instance, if the disease be hysteria, the usual drugs—asafœtida, æther, camphorated julep, sal volatile, carbonate of ammonia, and volatile tincture of valerian, will, *by the power of concatenation*, crowd on his mind, and a mixture composed of some, if not all of them, will be presented. Experience, if he be capable of observation, will teach him that hysteria occurs in leucophlegmatic, as well as in the plethoric or sanguineous habit, and that the remedies which are proper in one, must be injurious in the other. He will learn that even the medicine applicable to one case, will often, from peculiarity of constitution, have a contrary effect to that he expected. This is the case not only with hysteria, but almost every disease to which the human species is liable; and the man of experience and observation concatenates no remedy with the name of a disease, but regulates its treatment according to the state of the constitution of his patient, and his peculiarities, a knowledge of which is certainly not to be obtained during the short flying visits of fashionable physicians.

Dr. Buchan has added to his lecture a long Table of symptoms, alphabetically arranged, taken from the Symptomatology of Berkenhout, a work which has been long out of print; and from the works of Hippocrates, who paid more attention to the symptoms of disease,

and particularly to the indications of those which occurred during the progress of a malady, than any of the ancient or modern physicians. This Table occupies about eighty pages. To medical students and junior practitioners, it will no doubt prove practically useful; but we suspect it will not inspire invalids, and especially hypochondriacs, who are the principal purchasers of medical works, with confidence in the curative powers of medicine, nearly one fourth of the symptoms being of fatal import.

Dr. Buchan's remarks on the indications of the pulse are very valuable; and his observations on the different modern theories, the duties of a physician, the effects of different spirits, &c. &c. are very judicious and interesting. Indeed, we may say of this little work, which can be said of very few that have lately appeared on medical subjects;—it abounds with good sense, and the person who reads it attentively will find every page to contain useful information that will amply pay him for the time he has devoted to it, let it be ever so valuable.

THE EMETIC TARTAR OINTMENT.

SIRS,—That the inflammation and eruption occasioned by emetic tartar ointment, operate more effectually as a counter-irritant, in inflammatory or irritative affections of an internal part, than the effects of a blistering plaster, long experience has fully satisfied my mind; but one great objection to the remedy is, the *uncertainty* of its first action on the skin, and the slow progress of the eruption in that of others. In order to insure its immediate operation (which in cases of internal inflammation is of great importance), I have lately excited the action of the skin previously to its application, by rubbing it with the strong liquor of pure ammonia; and when I could not readily obtain it, by applying water nearly at a boiling temperature. When the skin is thus irritated, the emetic tartar ointment acts immediately; in exciting inflammation, the eruptions appear in a few hours, and rapidly advance to suppuration. The first action, viz. the inflammation, generally affords relief; but it has always appeared to me, that the patient experienced much greater benefit during the suppuration of the pustules. Mr. Allard, an eminent surgeon of Bristol, was in the habit of prescribing a solution of the tartarized antimony, for the same purpose as the ointment is employed; and when applied, by means of folded linen, as directed in the new Medico-chirurgical Pharmacopœia, I have found it to succeed; but in debilitated subjects, even it will not act effectually on the skin, so as to excite eruptions, unless the part be previously stimulated by hot water, or the strong liquor of pure ammonia. When the latter is employed, the part should be well dried before either the lotion or the ointment of emetic tartar be applied, as the article is capable of rendering the tartarised antimony inert by decomposing it.

I am, Sirs, your constant reader and admirer,

A MEMBER OF THE LONDON COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Liverpool, March 20, 1824.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

ERYSIPELAS.

Mr. James, of Kelso, informs us, that in consequence of his head having been violently affected during an attack of this disease, he had recourse to the application of cold water to the scalp and forehead, by means of napkins, in opposition to his medical attendant and several friends, with the most decided advantage. He states, that he had been for many years liable to violent attacks of the disease, particularly in the face; which, notwithstanding he had recourse to the best advice the place afforded, always proved very obstinate. About four years ago, when he was almost in a state of delirium, from the "violence of the disease, and acute pain in the head," he insisted on applying cloths dipped in cold water to the head and face. "In spite," says he, "of all the remonstrances and earnest intreaties of my friends to prevent it, I persisted in my determination, and the consequence was *immediate relief, and speedy termination of the complaint.*" He adds, that he has since experienced several attacks of the disease, and has derived the same benefit from this treatment, with the use of an aperient medicine.

In consequence of having mentioned to a medical gentleman of scientific attainments, the immediate relief, &c. this mode of treatment afforded, that gentleman, highly to his credit, gave it a trial; and in all the cases, he says, it has uniformly proved as beneficial as it did in that of Mr. James. Such indeed has been the success of this mode of treatment, in the practice of this medical gentleman, that he says, he is convinced that with the use of cold water to the head, as employed by Mr. James, and an aperient medicine, erysipelas may be cured in twenty-four hours. In some cases attended with a plethoric state of the system, he also had recourse to bleeding. The application of cold water, or cooling lotions, to erysipelatous inflammation on the legs and bowels, has been followed by violent inflammatory attacks of the brain, lungs, and bowels; but the application of cold water, or vinegar and water, to the head and forehead, we have found very beneficial in cases of erysipelas, either of the face or extremities, and we therefore recommended it in one of the early Editions of the Medical Guide. In all cases of fever, and even in cases of internal inflammation of the lungs, or first stage of pulmonary consumption, the application of cold water to the head has quieted cough.

THE STOMACH SYRINGE.

A correspondent in Dublin informs us, that he has witnessed the successful use of the stomach syringe, invented by the ingenious and scientific surgeon, Mr. Jukes, of Pimlico (described in one of our early numbers), in a case of a quantity of nitrate of potass (saltpetre) being taken into the stomach by mistake for Epsom salt. The following are the particulars of this interesting case: "Mr. Russell, a gentleman who holds a situation in the Ordnance Office, finding himself indisposed, dissolved, as he supposed, a dose of Epsom salt in a glass

of warm water, and swallowed it. The draught being soon followed by acute pain in the stomach, Mr. Russell examined the paper from whence he had taken the article; and, to the great alarm of himself and his family with him, discovered that he had taken a large quantity of saltpetre. A messenger was immediately dispatched for Mr. Ferrall, a respectable surgeon residing in the Bachelor's Walk, who hastened to his assistance; and, by a prompt use of Mr. Jukes's invention, the whole contents of the stomach were, in about a minute and a half, transferred into a basin. The operation was not attended with any difficulty or pain, and proved so successful, that in the course of one hour after the arrival of Mr. Ferrall, he was declared to be out of danger, to the great delight of his numerous family. That Mr. Jukes's invention is a most important one no candid surgeon will deny, for many lives have already been saved by the prompt employment of it, which would otherwise have been lost to the community. In a late number, we noticed a case of an attempt to destroy life by taking a large quantity of laudanum, which occurred near Nottingham; in which Mr. Jukes's apparatus was employed with the same happy results. Of all the important inventions that have been promulgated within the last century, for the benefit of mankind, that by Mr. Jukes is, in our opinion, the most valuable; inasmuch as it is capable of saving the lives of those who have taken into the stomach a quantity of a potent mineral or vegetable poison, which could not be removed by any other means; and which, in spite of all the numerous agents that have been suggested by modern chemists, to render them inert by decomposing them, have generally proved fatal. If parliament considered the late Dr. Carmichael James Smith entitled to a handsome remuneration for his pretended discovery of preventing the progress of the contagion of typhus fever, by diffusing the nitrous vapour throughout the atmosphere of the chamber; which was never afterwards employed either in the army or navy, and soon fell into disuse, in consequence of its producing no beneficial effects; how much greater is Mr. Jukes's claim on the gratitude of his country, for an invention, which has already succeeded in saving several lives, the importance and utility of which the experience of others will, no doubt, so completely establish, that every conscientious surgeon will consider it as necessary an instrument for his surgery as the forceps; in order that he may be able to employ it promptly, in cases of poisonous articles being swallowed—cases in which the aid must be speedy to be effectual. That the thanks of the country are due to Mr. Jukes for this important invention, and the bold experiments he made on himself, to induce the faculty to give it a trial; we are sure the present ministers, being men of great liberality, will not deny; and were Mr. Jukes to apply to parliament for the remuneration to which he is justly entitled, we have no doubt of the result being complimentary to him, and creditable to the government.

SEA AND COLD WATER BATHING.

SIRS,—It is common for physicians to advise their patients, when they bathe in the sea or cold water, to plunge into it with their heads

foremost, in order to prevent a determination of blood to the head, which they think likely to take place, if the feet or trunk be first immersed. I have lately met with several gentlemen, who have followed their physician's advice of going into the sea and a cold bath with the head foremost, who complained of having been exceedingly giddy after raising their heads above the surface of the water; and from having experienced the same affection myself, immediately after plunging into the sea with my head foremost, I am convinced the practice is extremely dangerous; particularly in plethoric subjects, who are predisposed to apoplexy. During last summer, two gentlemen, who plunged from the top of the steps of a machine, with their heads foremost, were attacked with apoplexy in the course of an hour after they came out of the water; and I am inclined to believe, that those who have been drowned, in consequence, as it has been said, of geting out of their depth, lost their lives from a sudden afflux of blood to the brain, from following the practice of entering with their heads foremost; for one of them I observed to lose his balance and to sink, where I am certain the water would not have reached his head, had he been able to have supported himself in an erect position. I have, therefore, lately rapidly descended the steps into the water, and introduced my head under it by bending my knees; and, after this practice, I have found my head free from dizziness. I am however satisfied, that the best mode of applying cold water to the surface of the body, is by means of the shower bath, the water being applied first to the head, when the body is erect; and certain it is, that the reaction, on which physicians seem to lay great stress, is greater than when the body is immersed in the water of the sea or cold bath. The position (nearly horizontal) in which the body is placed in the warm bath, is also bad, in consequence of favouring the determination of blood to the head. About twelve years since, a particular friend of mine was attacked with apoplexy (which proved fatal in a few hours), during the time he was in the warm bath.

With respect to the glowing heat or reaction, as it is termed, which takes place after cold bathing, by which physicians determine the propriety of continuing the use of the cold bath or sea bathing, it depends on the *temperature* of the water, as much as the *powers* of the system. The sea water in summer, is generally too warm to reduce the temperature of the body so as to call its powers into action, and the cold baths I have found to vary in many degrees of temperature. In some it has nearly approached the freezing point, and in weakly subjects at such a temperature, it so reduces the vital powers on which a reaction depends, that the patient continues cold for days after it. The length of time the person remains in the water, will also affect the powers of reaction. When a person continues in cold water only a quarter or half a minute, the reaction will be considerable, if his stamina be good; but, in proportion to the time he remains in it after one minute, the powers of reaction will be weakened. Before a physician condemns the use of cold bathing from its effects, he should make enquiry as to the degree of temperature of the water, the length of time he continued in it, the manner in which he entered it, and also whether the mind was depressed by a dread of bathing. I perfectly

agree with your intelligent correspondent, Dr. Edwards, that cold applied to the body reduces the vital powers, or acts as a direct sedative; and that the reaction which takes place after immersion of the body in cold water, is not the effect of any stimulating property, but the efforts of the system to remove its debilitating influence. I lately met with a case of palsy, of a lower extremity, which was clearly occasioned by the continued use of cold water, under the direction of a physician, with the view of stimulating the part! By this scientific practice of a *legitimate* physician, a simple case of rheumatism was converted into palsy; on which blistering, electricity, and other stimulants, have as yet had no effect.

I am, Sirs, your very obedient Servant,

Islington, April 6, 1824. RICHARD JACKSON, Surgeon.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

MALT LIQUOR.

SIRS,—I have followed the directions in your 89th number for making ale, and the article I found very pleasant to the palate, and to agree with my stomach much better than the ale of the London brewers. I have lately added to the quantity of malt specified in your work, one peck of good oatmeal, which renders the ale more rich, and, I think I may say, more wholesome. The oatmeal or ground oats, when well mixed with the malt previously to the addition of the decoction of bran, becomes malted, and if this be neglected, the wert will be thick. I find the Mathon white hop much more aromatic and effectual in preserving malt liquor in a vinous state than any other species, and I may add, that although all the sellers of malt pretend to have the true Mathon white hop, the genuine sort is only to be obtained in London at Mr. Butler's herb shop in Covent Garden. Malt liquor in a fresh state, I believe to be a very wholesome beverage, but when it is flat, as generally sold by publicans, I am inclined to consider it a slow poison. As it is evidently the fixed air which is disengaged from fresh ale in the stomach, that counteracts its baneful effects, I advise those who are partial to malt liquor, or who are in the habit of drinking much, to follow the practice of the Scotch, of keeping it in bottles. The fixed air which escapes from it allays irritation in the stomach, and renders the liquor very wholesome.

It is worthy of notice that the ale and porter of the London brewers contain an acid even when it is perfectly fresh; for on dissolving in it a little carbonate of soda or potass, an effervescence takes place. The Edinburgh ale, on the contrary, to the very last pint of a hogshead that had been on the tap three months, was entirely free from acid. Is the acid in the London ale and porter an addition to check fermentation, or is it vinegar from rapid fermentation?

I am, Sirs, your very obedient Servant,

Bristol, March 12*th*, 1824. JAMES RICKARDS.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

CHRONIC DISEASE *of the* LIVER CURED *by* GALVANISM.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

Sirs,—About the 7th of February last, Mr. Delisser, a most respectable and successful practitioner, requested me to see Miss Butler, a patient of his, who was then labouring under a chronic disease of the liver which had resisted three courses of mercury, and which had reduced her to a state of extreme debility. I accordingly accompanied that gentleman to her residence, and after investigating her case, I gave it as my opinion, that galvanism was the most probable means that could be adopted to remove the disease. Miss Butler was then consigned to my care by Mr. Delisser, with a liberality of feeling and manner which does honour to the profession. On the 13th of the same month, she paid me the first visit. Her state was then such as did not afford very sanguine hopes of a speedy recovery. Her complexion was extremely sallow, tongue white and furred, pulse low and slow, the countenance expressed the extreme languor and depression under which she laboured. She also complained of the loss of appetite, and great oppression after eating. She slept very ill, because on laying down in an horizontal posture, she felt a great pain about the region of the liver and bowels. She also suffered much from costiveness, and was constantly obliged to take aperient medicine to obtain relief. The evacuations indicated a high degree of disordered action of the liver and bowels; in short, she observed she had been out of health for the last four years, and suffered much from the complaint. After the first application of galvanism, she found considerable exhilaration of spirits. A few succeeding operations restored her appetite, which she said had become very keen. The bowels began and continued to perform their functions; the pain discontinued in the region of the liver; her rest became refreshing, perspiration restored, her complexion was no longer of a waxy appearance; the glow of health returned on her cheeks; the tongue became clean; the pulse strong and vigorous; and on the 13th of March I dismissed her, as she was restored to perfect health and strength. Miss Butler was galvanized but thirteen times, and no other means were adopted, except two or three doses of mild aperients at the commencement of the course. During this curative process, Mr. Delisser watched her case with great attention, and witnessed the progress of her recovery. The following letter bears ample testimony to the utility of the remedy which I daily administer in my practice. I am, Sirs, your obedient Servant,

Southampton Row,
February 20th, 1824. M. La Beaume.

Judd Street, Brunswick Square, March 22, 1824.

Sir,—It gives me pleasure, in compliance with your request, to acknowledge the beneficial effects of galvanism in that case of chronic hipatitis, which has impressed my mind with a conviction of the great advantage to be derived from your judicious treatment. I send you the previous history of Miss Butler's case, and you have

my full consent to use this communication in any way you think proper. The use of galvanism will, in a great measure, supersede the immoderate use of mercurials, which is carried to an excess most hurtful to the constitution, and frequently produces consequences more injurious than those it is intended to subdue. As far as I have directed my observations, I am fully satisfied that galvanism has an action both local and constitutional; by which means, it has the power of balancing the circulating fluids, and lessening the increased afflux of blood to any particular viscera; and in Miss Butler's case, the immediate application of your philosophical remedy, removed in a most striking manner that congestion, which supported a torpid condition of the chylopoietic viscera, and established the natural and healthy functions of the liver. Having various opportunities of witnessing similar diseases from a long residence in a tropical climate, more especially the local and contagious fevers which have both the same tendency to produce a great determination of blood to the liver or organs contained within the abdominal cavity, and to terminate in a derangement of their functions with altered and vitiated secretions, attended alternately with diarrhœa and constipated bowels, sciatica and a general emaciation of constitution arising from chronic inflammation; I have not the least hesitation in declaring it as my most candid opinion, that the application of galvanism in those diseases will be found most beneficial and generally available in the maladies incidental to Europeans from a long residence in hot climates. Without further preface, I proceed to the details of the following case.

On the 16th of December 1823, I was requested to visit Miss Butler, of Chapel Street, Pentonville, aged eighteen, of a phlegmatic temperament and sedentary habits; she had been afflicted with bad health for some time past, and was greatly annoyed by an almost constant pain of the right side extending down the thigh, with a fixed pain between the shoulders; and when lying in an horizontal position, great uneasiness of the abdomen as if pressure were made. She had been subject to frequent bilious attacks; complaints of the head; as giddiness and pain, sickness at the stomach, and constant retching of a glairy frothy substance; oppression at the precordia; dryness of the skin; a full pulse; watery and inflamed eyes; tongue white, furred and parched, with great desire to drink; the edges of the liver thickened, and intolerant pain on the slightest pressure of the right side. I immediately directed sixteen ounces of blood to be taken from the arm in a full stream, and three grains of calomel with an aperient draught four hours after, consisting of infusion of senna, rhubarb, and tartarized kali. At my following visit, I found the bleeding had succeeded in relieving the pain and giddiness of the head; but she still complained of extreme pain in the right hypochondria extending over the abdomen, with pains between the shoulders which materially affected her breathing. The medicine operated copiously, and the evacuations extremely offensive; the pulse less frequent; the pill and draught were repeated, which again produced a similar effect. Twenty-five leeches were then applied to the right hypochondriac region, and a blister immediately

after the leeches had ceased bleeding. Having to attend a patient some miles from town, I had not an opportunity of seeing Miss Butler for the two following days. During my absence, my assistant very properly repeated the pill and draught; and on my next visit, she informed me she had been instantaneously relieved by the leeches, and that the blister had risen in large bladders, but still a constant inclination to vomit, with pain between the shoulders, and the skin of a slight yellow tinge The former medicines were discontinued, and she commenced with the blue pill and rhubarb, combined in quantities to act gently on the bowels. She continued these and other means for nearly two months, tonics as well as alteratives, with little or no advantage: an evacuation of the bowels was kept up with the infusion of gentian and sulphate of magnesia; but I could by no means establish the healthy functions of the liver primarily affected by congestion, being the immediate cause of that torpidity of the pori biliarii. She had been three times under the influence of mercury, which had reduced her to extreme debility; and I consider it had been tried to its fullest extent. The perusal of your successful and interesting cases, made me sanguine in recommending Miss Butler to your care; and I feel truly happy to observe my expectation so satisfactorily realized, and her recovery so speedily accomplished. She continued to derive advantage, and improve in health and appearance, even from the first application of galvanism, and is now perfectly restored to health. Wishing you a long continuance of similar success,

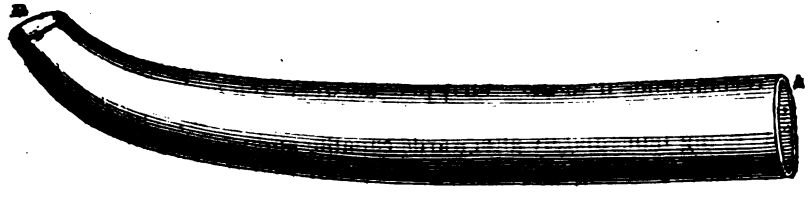
I remain Sir, your obedient Servant,

M. La Beaume Esq. ALEXANDER DELISSER.

31, *Southamptom Row, Russell Square.*

THE MEDICINAL LEECH.

In consequence of having received several complaints from young practitioners, of the great difficulty they have experienced in applying leeches to a small spot of the body, from whence it has been deemed advisable to abstract blood, we have thought proper to give the following wood-cut impression of a glass tube, which has been found very useful in fixing a leech to a particular spot, as the eyelids, the internal surface of the rectum, &c. &c.



The leech is to be introduced with the head foremost into the tube at the tail end (A); and when the head extremity (B) is applied to the skin, the leech is to be gently forced forward by means of a little tow at the end of a skewer, till its head touches the skin, when the tow should be left to prevent the leech receding. When evi-

dently performing its operation of sucking, the glass may be removed. The perspirable matter should be previously removed by washing the part with warm water, as the leech has a great dislike to any thing of a saltish taste. If it should not readily attach itself to the part, a little fresh milk, or sugar dissolved in water may be applied to the spot, or the leech may be immersed in a little fresh porter; after which, it generally seizes the part with apparent eagerness. Another advantage arising from the use of this simple instrument is, the leech more readily attaches itself than when applied by the warm fingers; and some surgeons say, that it is more likely to live after it.

In cases of inflammation of the eyes, congestion of the vessels of the head, inflammation of a joint, of the urethra, bladder, rectum, or any internal organ, the quantity of blood taken by leeches being too small to afford essential benefit, it is the practice with surgeons to keep up the bleeding from the punctures, after they have done their duty, by washing the part with warm water by means of a sponge, which promotes the discharge of blood by invigorating the vessels and removing the coagula which often block up the punctures. When the blood vessels of the part are much distended, or when there is a considerable determination of blood to it, or when the proportion of serum is great, which in leucophlegmatic habits is always the case, the common applications to stop the bleeding, as hair powder, gum arabic powder, flour, lint, brandy, vinegar, felt, &c. with the pressure of the end of a finger, frequently fail. In such cases, lint moistened with either spirit of hartshorn, tincture of muriate of iron, or tincture of kino, may be applied; and if they should fail, the sharp end of a piece of lunar caustic may be introduced into the puncture, for about a minute, which we have never found to fail.

If the patient be of a plethoric habit, abstraction of blood by opening a vein, or by cupping, will also be necessary in cases of local inflammation; for if the system of blood vessels be overloaded, the relief afforded by leeches will be temporary.

Dr. Rees Price, an experienced physician of the medico-chirurgical class, in a late interesting publication on the history and use of the leech, condemns the common practice of applying salt to the surface of the leech after it has performed its operation, for the purpose of making it disgorge the blood it had swallowed. The doctor says, it should be allowed to retain the blood, and immediately put into fresh water on its being detached. When thus treated, he has found the leech, in the course of a month, perfectly healthy, and to attach itself readily to the skin; but if this time cannot be spared, the doctor recommends it to be "stripped between the ends of the thumb and fore finger, so as to squeeze the blood out of it;" and the fact of its being immediately afterwards capable and ready to perform the puncturing and suction process, is a proof that this stripping treatment does not hurt it.

The late Dr. Paulmier, a French physician of some celebrity, was very particular in selecting the leeches for the use of his patients. He not only considered their appearance with regard to health, of great importance, but preferred those of a middle size, with small

heads and yellow stripes on their backs. The small, round, and black leeches he always rejected. Within the last eight years this country has been most abundantly supplied with the medicinal leech from different parts of the continent, which differ in slight degree in the appearances of the skin of the back and belly; and it has been observed by many surgeons, that the puncture of those received from Portugal, and a particular species from Germany and France, is generally productive of a considerable degree of erysipelatous inflammation, which in some irritable habits has considerably extended, and proved very obstinate. Some practitioners have attributed this occurrence to a predisposition of the patient to erysipelas; but on a patient where the English medicinal leech and the particular species of the foreign leech were at the same time employed, the punctures of the former were entirely free from any such affection, whilst those of the latter were, in a few hours, surrounded with an erysipelatous inflammation, clearly exhibiting the action of venom. It is therefore of great importance, in cases of irritative inflammation, or affections of a part of the system of delicate or irritable structure, as the eyes, &c. to follow the practice of Dr. Paulmier, in selecting the leeches for the use of a patient. The proper species of the medicinal leech, grows to the length of two or three inches. The body is of a very dark, or blackish brown colour, marked on the back with six yellow spots, and edged with a yellow line on each side; but these latter characters grow faint, and almost disappear at some periods of the year. The head is smaller than the tail. The horse-leech, which inhabits stagnant water, is larger than the medicinal leech; its skin is smooth and glossy; the body is depressed; the back is dusky; and the belly is of a yellowish green, having a yellow lateral margin. The leech received from Portugal, Jersey, and Bourdeaux, may be distinguished from the proper, or human leech, by the colour of the skin of the abdomen being greenish.

Some anatomists have treated with contempt the common practice of physicians, of applying leeches over the region of a diseased viscus, either of the chest or abdomen, because the part is not more intimately connected by blood vessels with the affected organ than the skin of an extremity, and consequently the blood so abstracted can only prove useful by diminishing the general mass; and the quantity taken by the number of leeches generally employed, and that which escapes afterward, cannot so far unload the sanguiferous system, as to produce any beneficial impression on an inflamed viscus; and even when a considerable number of leeches is applied, so as to abstract 12 or 16 ounces of blood, it does not prove so beneficial as the same quantity taken from a vein, in consequence of the slow manner in which it escapes. After a copious bleeding from a *large* orifice, a re-action certainly takes place, which by equalising the circulation, is of great service in cases of local congestion, or inflammation of an internal organ. Experience has, however, proved most satisfactorily, that although no direct communication by means of blood vessels exists between the skin over the region of the disease and the affected internal organ, it generally succeeds in quieting the inflammatory action, and that 3 or 4 ounces abstracted

either by leeches or cupping, from the skin over the region of the diseased viscus, is more efficacious than three times the quantity taken from a vein, or by cupping from a remote part. In cases of inflammation of the lungs, liver, stomach, womb, or intestines, every practitioner of experience has no doubt witnessed the beneficial effects of abstraction of blood by leeches or cupping, from the skin over the part affected. The same anatomists have also ridiculed mercurial inunction of the skin immediately over a diseased bone or joint, because the absorbent vessels of the skin not taking a direct course to the part, the mercury can only reach it through the medium of the circulation; but, we think, no surgeon of experience will deny that this local inunction proves much more beneficial in such cases, than when the remedy is introduced into the system by the stomach, or by the skin of a remote part by means of friction; but when it is common to discover mercury in a crude state in the diseased portion of a bone, after mercurial friction had been employed over the part, we may conclude that the mercury was conveyed by some direct means to the disease. From the circumstances of the rapidity with which some medicines are conveyed from the stomach to the kidneys, and to the brain, of their not being discoverable in the blood, and of their being evident in the urine and the serum within the ventricles, the sudden manner in which accumulations of fluid in a cavity, or the cellular membrane disappear, the diffusion of some chemical agents through the dead body which soon takes place after being applied to the surface, and of mercury being found in the diseased bone over which it had been rubbed, induce us to suspect, that there is an extravascular circulation, probably by a kind of capillary attraction, which cannot be detected by anatomical examination.

The leech glass, of which we have given a representation above, may be obtained at five pence each, at 170, Piccadilly.

THE KRAMERIA TRIANDRA, (RHATANY ROOT.)

For the following communication of the restorative effects of the rhatany root in a case of debility, the sequel of inflammatory fever, we are indebted to Mr. Dalrymple, of Bognor, a scientific surgeon of extensive experience:—

"The Hon. Miss J. H., a most accomplished and highly interesting young lady, while taking the usual promenade on the beach, being suddenly seized with tremors in her limbs and severe rigors, was immediately conveyed home, and my attendance requested. Being detained by a patient, I could not so promptly attend to the summons as the nature of the case seemed to require. On my arrival, I found the preceding symptoms succeeded by great heat of the whole body; the pulse about 100, full and hard; face flushed, the skin and tongue parched, general restlessness, headache, oppression at the chest, and inclination to vomit. I immediately prescribed an emetic, and an active aperient draught to be exhibited two hours after it had operated. In the evening, I found the medicines had produced the intended effect; but in consequence of the pulse continuing quick and full, with violent pulsation of the

temporal arteries, I took twelve ounces of blood from a vein of the arm, which was succeeded by fainting. I ordered her to be kept quiet, and prescribed a saline sudorific draught to be taken every four hours. On the following morning, April 3, she experienced no head-ache nor oppression at the chest, nor was there any disposition to sickness; pulse 89 and softer; the blood taken from the arm exhibited a buffy appearance. I ordered the saline draughts to be continued.

"April 4th, 5th, 6th,—Symptoms much the same.

"7th,—Pulse 70, soft and moderate, tongue nearly clean, no thirst, skin moist and soft, prostration of strength, and bowels costive. I prescribed an aperient draught, and ordered the draught to be repeated every eight hours.

"9th,—She was free from fever, and the pulse 60. She complained now of excessive debility, want of appetite, and continued restlessness. Considering this train of symptoms to be the consequence of excessive febrile action, I prescribed as a tonic, the infusion of calumba in conjunction with an aromatic, &c. and a moderate nutritious diet, which she continued steadily for a week without deriving from them any apparent benefit. I then resolved to give the rhatany extract a trial, and I feel happy in being able to state, that a steady exhibition of this remedy, together with a nutritious diet, a moderate portion of wine, and gentle exercise, she is now fast recovering her former good state of health. If this important case may be relied upon, it is a sufficient proof of the good effects of this medicine as a restorative; and should you think it of sufficient interest to merit insertion in your valuable journal, I shall be happy to forward you other cases in which the rhatany root has proved beneficial as a tonic medicine.

"*Bognor, May* 6, 1824.

"*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*"

A DEAF AND DUMB FEMALE.

Mr. Thompson, a scientific surgeon of Whitehaven, has published a very interesting case, in which the sense of hearing and faculty of speech were lost simultaneously, and which returned after the lapse of many years, without either the aid of legitimate or illegitimate medicine; the advice of a highly favoured royal aurist, or author of a "Practical Treatise on Surditas vel *Absurditas*," the interposition of the highly favoured Prince Hohenlohe, an Irish Catholic bishop, or even the saints of London; for Mr. Thompson asserts, she is indebted only to that great friend and protector of the fame of legitimate physicians—Dame Nature. Mr. Thompson prefaces the case with the following remarks, which we consider too valuable to omit.

"The instances of the faculty of speech having been restored through the intervention of manual or medical means are so numerous, that they have long ceased to excite interest; but the spontaneous efforts of nature in producing such effects are so rare,

that they deserve recording. When nature operates slowly in remedying her errors, art is often exercised in order to effect what might have been accomplished without such help. The subjoined case is one however, with the cure of which art had nothing to do; it was effected entirely by nature alone, and is a remarkable instance of the restoration of speech after a lapse of some years. It possesses originality from the change taking place without any previous shock, or any apparent alteration in the state of health, which in regard to most of the cases to which I might refer, was particularly remarked. There is reason to believe, also, that the organs of speech were effected *simultaneously* with those of hearing. The loss of hearing during infancy is necessarily accompanied by dumbness; but in an adult, the loss of the faculty of speech takes place with the loss of the sense of hearing. Where there is a defect in both, experience has shewn that the prospect of a cure is very remote; and the records of acoustic surgery present us with very few instances of *natural* restoration.

"Betsy Page, now in her twentieth year, was, when in her eighteenth month, seized with convulsions; which, for three weeks, occasionally attacked her, and then left her altogether. It was observed, shortly after their disappearance, that she had lost her speech, and likewise hearing; but her vivacity remained the same, and the health not in the slightest degree affected. Prior to this seizure, she is said to have been remarkably quick in catching any little word, and repeating it with great distinctness; but all the art that was resorted to could not afterwards make her articulate the least intelligible sound. In this state, she continued till her sixteenth year, when it was observed that the tones, as her mother said, became more human; and she began to utter sounds like words. After this, she added, though slowly, to her little stock, two or three words every week; they were monosyllables only. Words of any length could not, at this time, be taught her; and she continued to make very little progress till the beginning of June last; since which time, she has greatly improved. She gave her mother to understand, the first time she had ever been able to hear any thing, was after a rejoicing on a public occasion. At the time, the sound made by the cannon, gave some pain on one side only; this was on the left; on the right she could hear nothing, and felt no sensation similar to the other. This ear still remains deaf; she has since inquired if all persons hear but in one ear.

"She has always displayed great quickness. When at school she surpassed most of the scholars in needle and fancy work; and the lady by whom she had been instructed, informed me she had experienced no trouble in teaching her. With this lady she continued a length of time. Her drawings exhibit much taste and execution for the time she had spent in learning. She has been from school three or four years. The last six months she devoted to reading at home, and can, with trifling assistance, distinctly pronounce, and in part understand, words of one and two syllables. The progress made has been proportionate to the exertions used and the instruction

given; neither of which have been great. A few lessons also in arithmetic were at one time given, but being unused to abstract reasoning, and unable to draw conclusions, more difficulty was experienced in this branch of knowledge than in any other yet attempted, and I suspect it has been given up in disgust. But of numbers she has some idea; although their complex combinations appear to be beyond her reach, she is capable of enumerating to a considerable extent. It is not a little strange, that although she has been in the habit of repeating her prayers, morning and evening, to her mother for a length of time, she is still unable to say them from memory. I found, on questioning her, that she could not connect five words of the Lord's prayer, unless they were distinctly given; and of their meaning she could comprehend but little. The words used in endeavours made in the way of explanation, always confused her, however simple, especially from a stranger; the sound of the voice being different from that to which she is accustomed, may account for the difficulty in making her understand.

"What has been gained, too, with respect to language, has been gained at home,—rather an unfit place for rapid improvement. The greater facility of communicating by signs inducing those about her to resort to them, she is likely to be a long time before she is able to converse fluently; but the progress made during the last nine months affording an 'earnest of success,' I have strongly recommended a removal to strangers. The voice, which is now harsh and grating, would, of necessity, be improved from the more constant use to which it would be put. Her memory is defective in those things received by impressions through the medium of the ear, but not so in those received through the other senses, as the sight, &c. &c. The recollection of any thing once observed is retained. Although she can copy a letter with the greatest exactness, and some neatness, her defective recollection prevents her putting together three words in a connected form. The brain, like any other part of the body, becomes weak from want of use, and may be by length of time totally deprived of power.

"With respect to her knowledge of moral good and evil, it is worthy of notice that she has conducted herself through life uprightly, and if she be not able to explain the difference, her conduct has shewn she is not unacquainted with it.—Questions were not, therefore, (as with the young man at Chartres) put to her on this point, looking on this knowledge as an inherent quality of the human mind.

"In conclusion, it is only necessary to say again, that no means were ever tried, in a medical way, towards restoring the young girl to her speech; had it been done early, a great deal of time might have been gained, which, with respect to her mental faculties, was of much consequence. I do not know that medicine can boast of many cures, where the speech and hearing were suspended at the same time; yet it ought to have been employed, for upon nature (looking at the cases of success which centuries present) we can have little dependance."

In a late number of our Work, we have noticed the remarkable and certainly highly interesting case of a young lady who was born

deaf, and consequently dumb, (for a deaf person can have no conception of sounds,) which was cured by Mr. Wright, a scientific surgeon-aurist of London; and that lady, after the lapse of a few years, after the important sense of hearing was restored by the treatment adopted by Mr. Wright, who discovered the cause to be an edematous affection of the membrane of the tympanum, began to acquire an idea of sounds, and at this time can keep up conversation with a stranger so as to be understood. We suspect our medical readers will not agree with Mr. Thompson in attributing the recovery of the sense of hearing in his patient entirely to dame Nature; for it appears to us that the explosion of the cannon had much to do with it by its violent action on the auditory nerves; it in fact acted in the same manner as an electric shock, which, in cases of deafness arising from debility or palsy of the auditory nerves, has succeeded in effecting a cure. We do not know what Mr. Thompson means by the observation, when speaking of the memory, that the *brain*, like any other part of the body, becomes weak from the want of use, and may be by *length* of time *totally* deprived of power. The impressions produced on the memory through the optic nerve, as by signs, were durable; and if those by the auditory nerves were not so, it was because she did not so well understand them. It is a fact admitted by all physiologists, that one sense is increased by the loss of another, and it is well known that the senses of touch and vision are much greater, and convey more to the sensorium in deaf persons, than in a person who is not deaf,—a remarkable instance of which lately occurred in the person of the late Miss M'Avoy, of Liverpool.

IODINE AND BURNT SPONGE.

Doctor Gairdner, a respectable physician of London, has lately published an "Essay on the effects of Iodine on the human constitution, with some practical observations on its use in the cure of Wen, Scrofula, and Tuberculous Diseases of the Chest and Abdomen." Charred, or what is commonly termed *burnt* sponge, having been from time immemorial held in great esteem as a remedy for wen by the physicians of Italy, and having proved, according to Dr. Gairdner's account, "*totally*" inefficacious in the hands of British practitioners, the doctor, highly to his credit, devoted a little time to the investigation of the cause of such opposite opinions as to the medicinal virtues of the article: the result of which, it seems, has satisfied *his* mind that *genuine* BURNT sponge has not been used by the compounders of medicine in this country!! The following information, which has satisfied the doctor of the truth of his assertion, he says he obtained "from a quarter in which HE can place implicit reliance. It seems (says he) that the *chemists* are much in the habit of substituting charcoal for burnt sponge, of which an *undeniable* proof of the fact is, that *burnt* sponge is sold at an *inferior* rate to the same article before it has undergone the *process of combustion*. I may," proceeds the doctor, "be allowed to state in this place, that I have sent prescriptions for the *hydriodate of potass* to SEVERAL

chemists in London; that my prescriptions were said to have been made up, but that a few days afterwards, when I called at their shops in order to examine the medicine, I discovered that they were not even aware of the existence of such a drug!! If such fraud continue to be committed with impunity," says the doctor, "the sick had better submit *patiently* to their pains than have recourse to physicians, whose *science* is rendered unavailing for the profit of tradesmen"!! The doctor might have added, that the said sick, even if the prescriptions were most scrupulously compounded, "had better *patiently* submit to their *pains*," or resign themselves to Dame Nature, than place themselves under the care of a certain set of practitioners, audaciously styling themselves *legitimate* physicians, whose object is obtained on receiving the fee. Dr. Copland has lately given Dr. Gairdner's discovery of the fraudulent practice of chemists in substituting charcoal for burnt sponge, as a proof of the wretched state of the medical police of London. The legislature surely cannot do more to prevent such infamous frauds than to subject the offenders to a proportionate punishment; and if the law is not put in force by those who detect the fraud, surely it is unjust to censure the police which is unacquainted with it. In the act passed in the year 1815, for the better regulation of apothecaries throughout England and Wales, is the following clause:—

"V. And whereas it is the duty of every person using or exercising the art and mystery of an apothecary to prepare with exactness and to dispense such medicines as may be directed for the sick by any physician lawfully licensed to practise physic by the president and commonalty of the faculty of physic in London, or by either of the two Universities of Oxford or Cambridge; therefore, for the *further protection, security, and benefit* of His Majesty's subjects, and for the better regulation of the practice of physic throughout England and Wales, be it enacted, That if any person using or exercising the art and mystery of an apothecary shall at any time knowingly, wilfully, and contumaciously refuse to make, mix, compound, prepare, give, apply, or administer, or any way to sell, set on sale, put forth, or put to sale, to any person or persons whatever, *any* medicines, compound medicines, or medicinable compositions, or shall deliberately or negligently, *falsely, unfaithfully, fraudulently*, or *unduly*, make, mix, compound, prepare, give, apply, or administer, or any way sell, set on sale, put forth, or put to sale, to *any* person or persons whatever, *any* medicines, compound medicines, or medicinable compositions, as directed by any prescription, order, or receipt, signed with the initials, in his own hand-writing, of any physician so lawfully licensed to practise physic, such person or persons so offending shall, upon complaint made within twenty-one days by such physician, and upon conviction of such offence before any of His Majesty's justices of the peace, unless such offender can shew some satisfactory reason, excuse, or justification in this behalf, forfeit for the first offence the sum of five pounds; for the second offence the sum of ten pounds; and for the third offence he shall forfeit his certificate, and be rendered incapable in future of using or exercising the art and mystery of an apothecary, and be liable to

the penalty (twenty pounds) inflicted by this act upon all who practise as such without a certificate, in the same manner as if such party so convicted had never been furnished with a certificate enabling him to practise as an apothecary; and such offender so deprived of his certificate shall be rendered and deemed incapable in future of receiving and holding any fresh certificate, unless the said party so applying for a renewal of his certificate shall faithfully promise and undertake, and give good and sufficient security, that he will not in future be guilty of the like offence."

With respect to the substitution of *Charcoal* for *burnt* sponge, we beg to ask the doctor, what is this said *burnt* sponge? The sponge for the preparation, does not go through the "*process of combustion*," as intimated by the doctor; it is only charred, and is therefore a *charcoal;* differing from that of wood, in containing a very small proportion of phosphate and carbonate of lime, and subcarbonate of soda; and that of some species of sponge, which affords also a portion of iodine. Does the doctor mean to say that the article sold by "several chemists," did not contain the phosphate and carbonates above specified? We have taken the trouble to inquire the price of burnt sponge at the shops of "several chemists" at the west end of London, and at no one was it sold at a "price inferior to that of sponge before it had undergone the process of combustion." At some shops it is retailed at *3s. 6d.* and at others at *3s.* an ounce; and sponge in its native state, may be obtained at the rate of *9d.* an ounce. We can also add, that the article sold *by all*, was genuine burnt sponge: but as our examination was made after Dr. Gairdner's publication appeared, we are willing rather to suppose that the exposure of the fraud has had its proper effect on the impostors, than that a *Physician* should be capable of being unjust. We are at a loss to know how the discovery made by Dr. Gairdner, supposing it to be true, should account for the *total* failure of burnt sponge in curing wen in this country, because some hundred weights of the *genuine* article are used annually at public hospitals, and by respectable apothecaries in this country. The information Dr. Gairdner has received of the *total* failure of burnt sponge in the cure of wen in the hands of *British* practioners, we have no hesitation in saying, was not "obtained from a quarter in which implicit reliance may be placed;" for we have known it, in the form of troches, to succeed in dispersing several wenny tumours; and the late Dr. Cheston of Gloucester, informed us many years ago, that he rarely met with a case of wen, in which it *entirely* failed, and in the cases of young women, it uniformly succeeded. The late Dr. Rigby of Norwich, Mr. Allard, of Bristol, Mr. Hay, of Leeds, Mr. Cam, of Hereford, and other highly respectable practitioners, have also found it in the form of a lozenge (dissolved gradually under the tongue,) to succeed in dispersing true wen, and the fact of its having succeeded only when thus employed, corroborates our supposition that there is a kind of extra-vascular translation of remedies in the body, for the parts under the tongue have no direct connexion with the wenny tumour either by blood vessels or by absorbents. The author of the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, attributes the failure

of burnt sponge, in the practice of some surgeons, to their having employed the species of sponge, which does not afford iodine; and to this active article, Dr. Gairdner himself, as well as Dr. Coindet and others, attribute the beneficial effects of the *true* burnt sponge in wen and scrofula.

To ascertain the real value of a remedy, the practitioner of science attends both to its beneficial and unfavourable operations; and when its effects are not uniform, he endeavours to ascertain the real cause of its different or opposite actions. When a remedy is recommended for the cure of a disease, it is but too common for a practitioner to have recourse to it without attending to the state of the digestive organs, or preparing the system for its exhibition. When an article of such active qualities as that of iodine, is administered to *correct* the *constitution*, it is of the first importance that the stomach, bowels, and even the nervous and sanguiferous systems be in a healthy condition; for if the stomach, or the nervous system be in a state of excitement, and the sanguiferous system overloaded, the *primary* operation of iodine on the stomach will most probably disorder the whole system; and if the digestion be bad, the acid and other articles in the stomach will counteract its peculiar alterative effects; and in consequence of this *injudicious* exhibition of iodine, it, like all other new remedies, has not succeeded in the practice of *every* physician: and some, judging from its first or local action on a disordered stomach, have supposed that it could not operate favourably on the constitution. Physicians of contracted views, in fact, expect it to act both as a stomachic and an alterative; *i. e.* in an irritable stomach to allay irritation, and in weak or inirritative stomach, to act as a tonic or stimulant!! Dr. Gairdner therefore very justly observes, that nothing can assist practitioners more, in forming a just estimation of the virtues of iodine, and indeed of every other active remedy, than a careful observation of the bad effects of its abuse. It is also of importance to distinguish between the bad effects or failure of a remedy, from *injudicious* employment of it, and from *peculiarity* of the constitution of the patient; for, as the observant and scientific surgeon, Mr. Haden, observes, "the peculiarity or existing state of the body, often makes the difference between healthy food, or a safe medicine, and poison;"—an observation which every person should bear in mind, and particularly those patients who apply to the profession for instructions relative to diet, &c. The old saying, "that one man's food is another man's poison," is as applicable to medicine as to articles of diet; and every invalid should be aware, that no physician can possibly be so well acquainted with all his peculiarities of constitution, and the effects of different articles of diet on his stomach or nervous system, as to be able to lay down rules for his guidance, on which he can implicitly rely. Dr. Gairdner, particularly notices the effect of iodine on the nervous and muscular systems. In some nervous person, he observes, it never fails to produce some of the "countless forms of inward nervous derangement;" among which a certain degree of trembling is so characteristic, as to be regarded by the doctor, as a proof of the *constitutional* influence

of the remedy, or as Dr. Kingslake, of Taunton, would say, of the "system being *medicinally* saturated," *i. e.* "the system is so far filled with the peculiar influence of the article, as not to admit of its being further extended without incurring injurious effects." The trembling is, we suspect, from the observations we have made, the effect of its local action on the stomach; for it is commonly produced by the first two doses, before it has had time to act on the constitution.

Mr. Delisser, of Judd-street, has found the continued use of the tincture of iodine to excite a slight salivation; and Dr. Gairdner says that he has found it to act on the liver like mercury, so as to increase the secretion of bile, even when externally applied. Dr. Gairdner has prescribed iodine in a great number of cases of scrofula without ever meeting with any accident, having always discontinued it when the pulse became quick, small, or depressed, with watchfulness and flying pains of the joints, &c. Dr. Coindet has given it to 150 patients; Dr. Decarro, of Vienna, to 120; Dr. Erlingen, of Zurich, to 70; Drs. Formey and Hufeland have employed it extensively, and all with the most decided benefit. It has also been prescribed by many other practitioners of France, Germany, Italy, and England, with similar beneficial results. It is not a fact that iodine was first recommended by Dr. Coindet as a remedy for scrofula, for its antiscrofulous properties were noticed in this Work long anterior to Dr. Coindet's experiments with it in that disease. We were induced to prescribe it in four cases of scrofula, in consequence of having frequently observed the good effects of burnt sponge on scrofulous subjects. The date of the Number of our Gazette, in which iodine was first recommended as a corrector of the scrofulous diathesis, will confirm the truth of this assertion; for neither Dr. Coindet, nor any other physician on the continent or in this country, recommended it as a remedy for scrofula previously to the publication of that Number. Of all the preparations of iodine, Dr. Coindet has lately preferred the hydriodate of potass; and Dr. Gairdner states, that he has found the hydriodate of soda to answer equally well; but he has given no reason why it should be preferred to the tincture of iodine, which has been generally prescribed in France and in this country. The iodates, he says, although he has found them more *inert*, have proved in his practice more *unmanageable*, which is certainly very rarely the case with *inert* articles. Speaking of the ointment of the hydriodate of potass, which has been lately much recommended by Dr. Coindet and others for inunction, in cases of scrofulous and wenny tumours, Dr. Gairdner observes,

"I have generally ordered half a drachm of the hydriodate of potass to be united to an ounce and a half of hog's-lard, and desired the patient to rub in a drachm of this ointment over the surface of the tumour, night and morning. When the tumour is painful, it is not necessary to rub in. All that is necessary is, to choose a portion of the surface of the body where the skin is very tender and thin, and simply to apply the ointment over night. For this purpose, almost any part of the body which is habitually covered may be chosen; but

in the axilla, and in the inner surface of the thighs close to the scrotum, the absorption will be found most rapid."

For internal use, Dr. Gairdner prefers the solution of the hydriodate of potass in distilled water to that of pure iodine in alcohol. Of the former (made by dissolving half a drachm of the hydriodate of potass, in an ounce of distilled water) he recommends ten drops to be given for a dose, and the quantity to be gradually increased to twenty or twenty-five drops, two or three times a day.

The first case of scrofula, in which Dr. Gairdner made trial of this medicine, was that of a young lady eighteen years of age, who had been affected by glandular swellings of the neck for nearly eight years. She used the solution of hydriodate of potass for a month; the dose varied from ten to twenty drops three times a-day, with occasional intermission of a day, when the absorption was going on rapidly. At the end of this time she had got perfectly rid of her swellings, and she now (two years since she took the medicine,) remains perfectly well. When she discontinued her drops, so far from having been incommoded by them, her health was certainly much improved. There remained several little fistulous sores, which required the assistance of the knife to heal them. The iodine is not equally efficacious in all cases of this kind. Great numbers, however, yield rapidly under its use; but many of them also resist its operation. "I have," says the doctor, "never been able to assign even a plausible reason for this difference of its action in scrofula. In general, I have found such cases yield more readily to the internal than to the external use of iodine. The scrofulous glands of children are not so easily affected by iodine, as those of persons who have attained the age of puberty; and they are also more liable to a relapse."

The doctor supposes that the dispersion of scrofulous tumours by the internal or external use of the hydriodate of potass, proves that it acts powerfully on the absorbent system. If we are to attribute its efficacy in scrofula to its invigorating effects on the absorbent vessels, how are we to account for its increasing the size of true scirrhous tumours? Mercury, we know, excites the action of the absorbent system, and yet under the continued use of mercury, it is common for scrofulous tumours to increase, and tumified glands, from syphilic poison, to decrease. Its beneficial influence on scrofulous affections are, we conceive, to be attributed to a peculiar alterative influence, somewhat similar to that of mercury in syphilis, or like that of saline preparations of iron, which act vitally on tubercles, or hydatids, and on those peculiar thickenings or tumours which take upon themselves, after a certain period, an independent or peculiar vitality. Dr. Gairdner has prescribed iodine in cases, as he imagined, of tubercular affections of the lungs; and the results induced him to believe that it will be found of service in the *early stage* of pulmonary consumption, but he apprehends injury from its operation in an *advanced* stage of the disease. In cases of recent cough in a scrofulous subject, in whom the slightest cough should always be considered a serious affection, being very likely in such a habit to occasion the deposit of lymph in the cellular substance of the lungs, which may advance to tubercles, we have administered

the tincture of iodine, in conjunction with the inspissated juice of the garden lettuce, with decided advantage.

Dr. Gairdner has added an appendix to his little work of the formulæ of the different preparations of iodine he recommends, which is chiefly taken from a late publication by Dr. Magendie, of Paris, of which the following is a copy:—

Tincture of Iodine:

Take of Alcohol, one ounce;
Iodine, thirty-nine grains. Mix.

On this solution Dr. Gairdner makes the following observations:—

"This preparation should not be long kept, as it readily undergoes alteration and decomposition. Alcohol varies in its solvent power of iodine, according to its degree of concentration. The frequent opening of the vessel, therefore, in which it is kept, must occasion a change in the quality of the tincture, by allowing the evaporation of the spirit, and thus occasioning a diffusion of undissolved iodine through this preparation. Mr. Magendie seems also to fear that a decomposition of the alcohol may take place, from the superior affinity of iodine for hydrogen. Altogether (says Dr. G.) this is certainly the most objectionable form in which iodine is used.

"*Solution of Hydriodate of Potass.*

Take of Distilled Water, 1 ounce.
Hydriodate of Potass, 30 grains.—Dissolve.

"I have generally, (says Dr. G.) prescribed these two preparations in cinnamon or mint water, in which form they are seldom disagreeable to the stomach. I have avoided, as much as possible, joining them to any tinctures or infusions, as we are yet in a great degree unacquainted with the chemical habits of iodine and the different vegetable substances. It will be sometimes, however, found advisable to use tonics with iodine.

"*Ointment of Hydriodate of Potass.*

Take of Hydriodate of Potass, ½ drachm.
Hog's-lard, 1½ ounce.—Mix."

Many physicians, who have given the iodine an extensive trial, say that they have found the tincture of it more efficacious than the solution of the hydriodate of potass; and others agree with us that its powers are much weakened by being united with potass. The best vehicle for its exhibition is unquestionably the decoction of marshmallow root, which, by reconciling it to the stomach, prevents any unpleasant operation on the nervous system. In cases of general debility, it may be administered in a decoction of peruvian bark, with mucilage of gum arabic; or, as prescribed by Dr. Williams of Ipswich, in an infusion of quassia.

Dr. Kolley, an eminent Prussian physician, informs us, that the high terms in which iodine had been recommended as a remedy for wen, induced him to take it for the disease of ten years standing, and for which he had employed all the remedies and modes of treat-

ment which had been suggested for cure, both by the ancient and modern authors.

His respiration, he says, was much impeded by the mechanical effects of the tumour; he could neither walk quickly, nor for any length of time; he was not able to ascend, nor use his voice without great exertion. He also suffered from violent congestion of the vessels of the head. During the employment of the iodine, he scrupulously followed the prescription of Dr. Coindet (ten drops of the tincture of iodine three times a day in syrup) for a fortnight; this dose was taken without any inconvenience. During the second fortnight, he experienced disagreeable effects from the increase of the tumour; his respiration becoming more laborious, his voice hoarse, and the congestions more considerable. He had likewise an unpleasant taste in his mouth, and his appetite declined. He did not perceive that his excretions were changed. In the course of another fortnight the tumour evidently diminished, and it afterwards continued to decrease gradually; so that after continuing the medicine three months, the disease disappeared, leaving only a slight degree of hardness of the lower lobe of the right side of the gland. The breathing, as far as the conformation of his chest permitted, became easy. He did not perceive, during the use of the iodine, any increase, either in the alvine evacuations, the urine, or perspiration, but he had diarrhœa during the days; he took forty drops of the tincture at a time. He had no pain at the stomach, though his appetite was rather impaired; and he had frequent headache, which he attributed to over distension of the blood vessels of the brain. In short, though he continued the use of iodine for three months, he experienced none of the symptoms attributed by Dr. Coindet to what he has called the period of saturation. He did not lose flesh.

Dr. Kolley adds, that he has found iodine, with mercury and tonics, extremely useful in very inveterate cases of scrofula, particularly in young subjects of pale flaccid skin, with enlarged bowels, tumefied glands of the neck, arm-pit, and mesentery, and in whom there existed, at the same time, a disposition to continual suppuration, without the discharge removing the glandular swellings; in whom the employment of internal and external remedies induces the sores to heal, but which soon break out again. In such cases, iodine, given alternately with calomel and tonics, produced great benefit. The tumours diminished in size, and finally disappeared; the suppuration in the glands ceased; the proper functions of the alimentary canal were soon restored, and the colour of the skin improved. Similar benefits resulted in local scrofulous affections, as inflammation of the eye, and edges of the eye-lids, and various eruptions of the skin. He has frequently seen cases of this kind, of long standing, and hitherto regarded as incurable, permanently cured by the use of iodine. He recommends a diet chiefly of animal food, and condemns the use of wine, spirits, and even beer. He advises water to be drank abundantly, and the quantity of animal food for a meal, to be so small as to leave a feeling of hunger.

Dr. Kolley notices the bad effects iodine is apt to produce when

injudiciously administered, or rather when the system has not been properly prepared for its exhibition by a mild tonic medicine, as a weak solution of the subcarbonate of soda in an infusion of cascarilla or Peruvian bark, with a few grains of the blue pill, as recommended by Abernethy. The tincture of Iodine when *injudiciously* administered, says the doctor, produces a deleterious influence on the nervous system. It excites in persons of nervous or irritable habits, even in the dose of a few drops, many unpleasant effects, as slight spasms, a degree of restlessness in the limbs, termed fidgets, feeling of lassitude, headache, tremors, depressions, paleness of the face, and sometimes tears, and great oppression of the chest. These *symptoms*, says the doctor, are *entirely* different from those arising from the saturation of the system with iodine, of which, as stated page 954, Dr. Gairdner considers them evidence. Persons who are predisposed, or subject to determination of blood to the head, or any other important organ, who are of robust constitutions, muscular frames, well fed, and with the appearance of the bilious temperament, Dr. K. says, bear iodine ill, unless purgatives are occasionally exhibited during its use. In such persons iodine increases the determination of blood to the head, so as to produce violent headache and confusion of mind.

Whenever the digestive organs are not perfectly healthy, the patient having a disposition to heartburn &c., he says iodine must be given with much caution, as in such cases it is apt to disorder the stomach and produce colicky pains. If the system be in a feverish state, or local inflammation exists, iodine, he says, should not be administered. The same holds good, he observes, with regard to a disposition to diarrhœa, local affections of the urinary organs, pulmonary consumption, inflammatory affections of the lungs, stomach, liver, and, generally speaking, all those diseases of the internal organs of an inflammatory nature, or are liable to terminate in suppuration. In persons who live on very nutritive diet, and who drink much wine, Dr. K. has found iodine to excite fever and hemorrhage. Hectic diseases likewise contra-indicate its use.

Iodine, on the other hand, he says, is indicated,—

1stly, In those patients who exhibit no symptoms of an excess of sensibility or irritability.

2dly, Where there are no *active* congestions, and where arterial plethora, or venous congestion exists.

3dly, When the digestive organs are sound, and

4thly, When there is no fever, nor tendency to diarrhœa, nor any of those morbid conditions specified above, and when the patient is well nourished without overloading the stomach.

The results of Dr. Kolley's experience are decidedly in favour of the internal use of the tincture of iodine; a form, says he, which acts very powerfully in the cure of wen and scrofula. To insure its success in the former of these complaints, he observes, it is absolutely necessary to ascertain, 1stly, If the swelling really exists in the thyroid gland. 2dly, If there be not too considerable a degeneration of the tumour, so as to approach to the nature of scirrhus or cancer, and if it do not contain either calcareous concretions or

similar products. 3dly, If the tumour be not of several years standing. 4thly, If there be neither atrophy nor hectic fever, nor any alteration in the mass of the fluids. And 5thly, If the goitre itself be not inflamed and painful.

The remarks of Dr. Gairdner and Dr. Kolley are of such importance in a practical point of view, that we have given them in detail, in order that an article, of whose antiscrofulous properties we entertain a very high opinion, may have a fair trial in the practice of those who may be inclined to prescribe it on our recommendation. Had all the remedies which have been introduced into the practice of medicine within the last hundred years, been accompanied with the cautions which the experience of men of accurate observation and sound judgment had found necessary, many articles which have fallen into disuse in consequence of an injudicious exhibition of them, would at this time be employed in preference to others of less efficacy. We are much pleased with the judicious and highly valuable practical remarks on the use of iodine by Dr. Gairdner and Dr. Kolley, because we are satisfied that the publication of them will insure for iodine, and its various preparations, a *fair* trial, in cases of scrofula and wen, in this country and on the continent. The practice of the French physicians in administering iodine, and the preparations of it in syrup, is, we are persuaded, very bad; for the sugar, rapidly running into the acetous fermentation when the stomach is not perfectly healthy, not only destroys its peculiar virtues, but disturbs the process of digestion.

SULPHUREOUS FUMIGATION.

Mr Blackett, an eminent surgeon of London, has lately communicated to Dr. Copland, and surgeon Dunglison, several cases of chronic and acute diseases of the skin, in which sulphureous fumigation, (as recommended by Dr. Gales of Paris, and lately introduced into the practice of this country by surgeon Green of Bury Street) was productive of the most beneficial effects. To illustrate its efficacy in the itching of the skin of elderly people, which is often so exceedingly distressing as to disturb the general health, chiefly by preventing sound or refreshing sleep, and so obstinate as to resist the internal and external use of alterative and anodyne medicines, Mr. Blackett has introduced the following case:

"J. W., a lady upwards of seventy years of age, had been greatly distressed, for the last four months, with *prurigo senilis:* the itching was at times intolerable to her; and from scratching, the surface of her legs was abraded, swollen and inflamed, and oozed a watery discharge. This patient's skin was in a dry shrivelled state, from age and the nature of the complaint. I immediately recommended to her the adoption of sulphurous fumigation, which, after a time, removed the disease."

We have selected the following case, because, in our opinion, it satisfactorily proves that it not only removes cutaneous obstructions, and promotes the healthy secretion of the skin, but that a sufficient

portion of the remedy is conveyed into the system by the superficial absorbents to correct the constitution, and to act on the stomach, liver, intestines, &c. &c.

"A lady, about forty years of age, whose digestive organs had been for some years in a deranged state, complained of flatulent distention of the stomach and intestines, occasional spasms, and colicky pains, followed by sickness and acrid eructations. Her habit of body had been always constipated, arising, as it was supposed, from a torpid state, and some partial indurations of the liver; and she had frequently suffered from attacks of erysipelas in the face and about the ears. She was much reduced in muscular strength. She had been taking, for a long time, the different preparations of mercury, in various forms, and with other remedies. When she applied to me, the submaxillary and paroted glands, on one side, were so much swollen, as to occasion pain and difficulty in swallowing; and the sterno-cleido-mastoideus muscle was much enlarged and painful, so as to cause the patient to carry her head on one side. She attributed these swellings to a severe cold she took at Brighton last winter, whilst under the influence of mercury. For this lady's complaints I directed tonic remedies, with an aperient at night; and as the skin was in a harsh dry state, as an adjunct, I ordered her every other day to use a sulphurous fumigating bath. It gave me great satisfaction to find, that, at the expiration of a week, my patient expressed herself better. At the end of three weeks, the swellings had disappeared, and she could move her head without pain; her general health was much improved; the skin had become soft and natural. She now discontinued the baths, but took daily an acidulated decoction of bark, until she considered herself quite well. It is now more than two months since she left off all medicines, excepting an occasional aperient. She has since had some slight colds, but no erysipelas or return of the swellings."

On the use of sulphureous fumigation, &c. Mr. Blackett makes the following very judicious remarks:—"I trust it will not be considered a trespass if I add a few observations connected with the employment of this remedy. It appears, from the history of this mode of practice, which was first applied in a very imperfect manner, that Dr. Gales was so fortunate in curing psora and scabies as to arrest the attention of the medical and civil officers attached to the Hospital of St. Louis, where Dr. Gales pursued his method, and where he had held the situation of "pharmacien" in chief for the previous twelve years. The method became no sooner observed by the officers alluded to, than it was considered a great improvement in the mode of curing those diseases, as regards the time, the economy, the manner, and the certainty of its effects. The first step necessary, in the opinion of those gentlemen, was to invent a more convenient way of exposing the surface of the patient's body to the influence of medicated gas, aided by increased heat. This object being attained by the ingenuity of Dr. d'Arcet, the patients became cured with less inconvenience to themselves and the attendants, by a mode perfectly cleanly, and in a shorter period than that required by the method of Dr. Gales. It was not till after this improvement in the mode of

administering the sulphurous acid gas that its value, in a curative point of view, became forcibly impressed on the minds of the gentlemen observing the benefits resulting from its application. So forcible was this impression, as to occasion a representation of its effects to be laid before the Faculty of Physic at Paris for its consideration: the latter, feeling the respect that was due to the characters representing the measure, formed from among themselves a committee to investigate the powers of the remedy in question, in order to discover, with more precision, the subject recommended to their consideration. During this investigation, it was found that diseases, totally unconnected with scabies or psora, with which some of the patients were afflicted, as rheumatism, sciatica, scrofula, and chronic diseases in great variety, were some of them cured even before the skin diseases for which the patient took the fumigations; and for which it had not been in the least anticipated that they would receive benefit.

"The result was so unequivocally acknowledged, and the advantages of this method of curing many diseases was so decided, as to occasion a further representation of its effects to the official authorities of Paris; and they likewise recommended Dr. Gales as deserving a retiring pension for his perseverance and invention. The same authorities saw the great saving of expense it would be to the State, as respects food, linen, washing, and medicines, from its not requiring the patients to remain long in the hospitals; and pointed out the applicability of the method to all large establishments, as hospitals, poor-houses, prisons, barracks, the rear of armies, and hospital or troop ships.

"Time has yet to shew the further importance of this great medical agent: its great usefulness for the relief and cure of many obstinate and painful diseases is daily becoming more apparent. Mr. Green, an experienced Practitioner, has devoted much attention to the subject: from his observations and practice more important facts may be expected, and certainly much remains yet to be developed.

"Already has Mr. Wallace proved its general utility; and, in liver complaints and some other diseases, has found fumigation with the chlorine acid gas of the greatest advantage; indeed, he is inclined to give the preference to the chlorine in many cases where sulphurous acid gas has been so decidedly approved, particularly in liver complaints.

"Sulphureous fumigation has been adopted throughout the whole of the Continent of Europe, with a celerity bespeaking its deserts, as a curative itself for several complaints; but, in most, to be considered as an *auxiliary* of the first importance. This country has seldom been backward in admitting improvements in the sciences and arts, let them be elicited from whatever source they may; but, on the contrary, she has been most conspicuous in her example of unwearied industry and inventive talent. How is it then, I would ask, that so great an improvement in the science of medicine should have been so evidently overlooked by the Profession of England? This question can be readily solved. The practice was introduced in an empirical manner into this country; and it required time, and the good sense, as well

as the science of the Profession, to rescue it from the station in which it was so undeservedly placed.

"I have been led into this detail in consequence of the benefits that have been received by the patients for whom I have prescribed the remedy; which benefits have been such as will induce me to resort to the practice, as an *auxiliary* of great power, whenever cases requiring it shall come under my care; especially as I have now the opportunity of doing so under the superintendence of Mr. Green, a regularly qualified member of the Profession, and who is also an accurate observer: and I have no hesitation in saying that any of the Profession wishing their patients so valuable an auxiliary, particularly in several chronic diseases that come before them, will have reason to be satisfied with the result. The usefulness of the practice, as a preventive of disease in great establishments, cannot be too much enforced. The avidity with which some governments on the Continent have enforced so salutary a remedy, as a matter of the first statistical importance, will sufficiently substantiate what I have advanced."

That the reputation of sulphur in the form of vapour, as a remedy for many cutaneous affections, rheumatism, &c., has greatly suffered in this country in consequence of "having been introduced in an empirical manner," or of being employed in cases to which it was not applicable, or of the process of sublimation having been improperly conducted by admitting atmospheric aid to the sulphur, so as to produce sulphureous acid, is a fact which no practitioner will deny who is acquainted with the transcendant medical abilities of the late Red-lion-square doctor. Indeed, what *new* remedy has not suffered in its reputation by an *injudicious* exhibition of it, and how many valuable remedies have fallen into disuse by an abuse of it, or even by an occurrence with which it had nothing to do? The thorn-apple, which was a few years since held in great esteem as a remedy for asthma by some eminent physicians, and had proved so generally beneficial as to become a popular remedy for the disease, has nearly fallen into disuse in consequence of an old asthmatic patient having been seized with an apoplectic fit a few hours after smoking the leaves; and how many hundred asthmatics have experienced the same attack after smoking tobacco, or even drinking a pint of porter! The fact is, the stramonium had no more to do with the apoplectic attack than the infusion of rosemary the patient drank during its use. Fifty years hence this remedy will most likely be revived, and its reputation for the relief of asthma will probably be permanently established. We may say of the sulphureous vapour, that if it does no good, it is incapable of doing harm, either by its action on the skin or on the constitution from absorption; and this cannot be said of the *chlorine acid* GAS, lately introduced into practice by Mr. Wallace, of Dublin, and so highly extolled by Mr. Blackett as a remedy for diseases of the skin and liver. In all affections of the viscera of the chest and abdomen, whether acute or chronic, it is of great importance to keep up a healthy condition of the skin, and particularly its secretions termed sensible and insensible perspiration; but it is said that the *chlorine acid gas* is absorbed, and through the medium of the circulation, invigorates the liver so as to promote the secretion of the

bile, and of course rouses the action of the stomach and intestines; and it appears to us, from its stimulating effects on the intestinal canal, (griping pains and diarrhœa generally following its use,) that a considerable portion of the acid enters the system. Now in a person whose nervous system is very irritable, or who has an organ predisposed to disease or inflammatory action, or whose colon or rectum is in an unhealthy state, such a remedy is, in our opinion, capable of producing most serious mischief. We have met with cases of inflammation of the liver, rectum, lungs, and brain, which were clearly produced by the injudicious use of the *chlorine acid gas*, and by the *nitrico-muriatic acid* pediluvium, (not inaptly termed by some invalids from the East Indies, the "*pickling tub*,") which acts in the same way, and which in the hands of ignorance, has hastened many hundred patients to their graves. Indeed, we so far differ from Mr. Blackett with respect to the *superior* advantages of the chlorine acid gas over sulphureous vapour, that we really cannot fancy a diseased state of the liver in which it may be employed with impunity. The skin of different people varies much as to its powers of absorption. Every surgeon of experience knows that mercurial inunction is much more easy with some patients than with others; and with those whose skin readily absorbs a quantity of the chlorine acid gas, or the diluted chlorine, (from the pickling tub,) a quantity may be conveyed to the mass of blood, or otherwise diffused throughout the system, as to excite extensive inflammation of the viscera, of the abdomen, or of the brain or lungs. The practitioner has in fact no means of regulating its action, nor can the most experienced and minute observer say, in a case of indolent disease of the liver, to which it may be applicable, what is the real state of the brain, lungs, stomach, or intestines; for in chronic or indolent disease of the liver, it is common for one or all these viscera to be morbidly irritative, or disposed to disease of an acute nature, and on which the acid would act most injuriously. We do not know what Mr. Blackett means by the "sulphurous *acid gas*." Dr. Gales only employed sulphureous *vapour*, and if the sulphur be sublimated, as he directs, in a close vessel, i. e. if the access of atmospheric aid be completely prevented, no *acid* will be produced. Under the superintendance of Mr. Green, a surgeon of great experience and observation, sulphureous vapour, and the other medicated vapour and water-baths, will no doubt have a fair trial, inasmuch as they will assuredly be judiciously employed.

THE MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL TRANSACTIONS.

(Continued from Page 920.)

The twenty-ninth communication is a case of

Stricture of the Urethra, of long standing, which was successfully treated by incision, by Mr. James M. Arnott. We often meet with cases of stricture of the urethra, of long standing, where the thickening is extensive, and connected with the peculiar cellular substance surrounding the urethra, termed the corpus spongiosum, to which the caustic is inapplicable; and the parts, from neglect, are so contracted,

above case by the assistance of the small director. This instrument was of the size of the *smallest* catgut bougie; and although a *stricture* may not *give* entrance to a *flexible* instrument of this size introduced from the *extremity* of the urethra, still a *solid* one held *very near* it may be *carried in*, even in those cases where, as in the one related, the urine should have passed only *guttatim* (by drops).

"The removal of the induration is the consequence of keeping the catheter in the *urethra;* for during this time it gradually disperses: at least we may *infer* that this *is* the case, from what occurred *at* the stricture an inch and a half *down*, in the instance that has been detailed. The *visible* phenomena were, slight irritation in the canal, some *puriform* secretion from its surface, and the disappearance, in the course of eight days, of the indurated substance; a process which would have been, by the *older* surgeons, sufficiently, although not accurately, designated by the expression of its having *melted away*. (!!) And *I* may take this opportunity of mentioning, that, as far as *my own* experience goes, whenever there is organic change constituting a stricture, much greater advantages are derived from leaving an instrument in the urethra for some time, than by the usual practice of merely passing it for a few minutes.

"In judging, (says Mr. A.) of the *advantages* of the treatment by incision of such cases of stricture as we are speaking of, we must also take into account, that whilst the extent in length of the diseased change is seldom great, still it sometimes is considerable; a circumstance weighing against the employment of the caustic, but which is of no moment with regard to the knife, as the extent of three lines or twelve can be divided with equal ease and quickness.

"The only arguments which may be advanced *against* the resorting to the treatment by operation, are its *danger* and *severity*. As for the first of these, no surgeon *thinks* of danger when he cuts down upon a stricture in order to heal a fistula in the perineum, and surely there is no additional risk in the cases we are considering. With respect to the *severity* of the process, this will scarcely be taken into account by those who have *witnessed* the distressing state of a man with a stricture so narrow that he can only pass his urine in drops or in a thread-like stream; or by a surgeon who knows that such a state will gradually wear out the patient's health, even should he not be attacked with total retention of urine, which he is daily liable to, and will then of necessity require the performance of this or a still more severe operation, under unfavourable circumstances for its success."

The practice adopted by Mr. Arnott is unquestionably, in every point of view, preferable to the barbarous mode of treatment termed "forcing the stricture." If it be a fact that the strictured, or diseased part, became healthy, and that the capacity of the urethra after the incised wound had healed, was really in a natural state, "this method of cure, without entering into *any* theory with respect to the *origin* of stricture," as Mr. A. observes, "ought to be more frequently adopted than it has hitherto been." But, most observant Mr. Arnott, why make the incision *anterior* to the stricture? If an

incision were necessary, surely the proper place for making it was between the stricture and the prostate gland. It really appears to us nonsense to say that a small bougie will pass with greater facility when introduced near to the mouth of the stricture than when conducted to it from the orifice of the urethra. The assertion only proves the old adage, "Experientia docet;" and it satisfies us that Mr. Arnott and Mr. Shaw are somewhat deficient in this *essential* part of what we would term *nice* surgery. No part of surgery has afforded a more productive field for talent, imagination, and misrepresentation, than real or imaginary affections of the urethra. In it the regular and irregular quacks have discovered many a gold mine. Some practitioners have found their *labours* so productive in the cultivation of this field, that on the slightest affection in the neighbourhood, or within half a yard of it, they have referred it to *stricture*, and in consequence of the *natural* obstructions to the free passage of a bougie to the bladder, they are not at a loss for "confirmation strong" of the fact, or to convince the unfortunate patient that his suspicions were not without foundation. The mind of the dupe being thus alarmed, and ignorant of the "pranks they are playing," he most cheerfully submits to any treatment his medical adviser, who on such occasions soon professes for him great friendship, may suggest, to get rid of a disease that is likely to embitter the remainder of his days. He is accordingly supplied with the remedies, with particular instructions to call on him every second or third day, when the customary compliment is expected from the gold mine. If the patient's intellects be weak, the result of this *friendly* treatment will be a *real* stricture. Since we published our remarks on the power of the Buchu leaves in allaying morbid irritations of the bladder, urethra, and rectum, some hundreds of invalids, who had been pronounced by practitioners to have been strictured, have applied to us for instructions for taking the remedy, and on examination we have found about ninety out of one hundred *entirely* free from stricture, having only a slight degree of morbid irritation of the caput Gallinaginis and prostate gland, which had been kept up by the use of the bougie, for the benefit of the patient's most sincere friend—the surgeon!! Some surgeons of London, like the liver doctors, see stricture of the urethra in every affection, however remote the seat of it may be from the urethra. This is the *art* of ancient and modern medicince!! The fact (if fact it be) of the structural disease, constituting stricture, having disappeared after cutting through it, is of such importance, that we are sorry Mr. Arnott and his friend, "*Squire* Shaw," have omitted the name and residence of the patient. Had they given this necessary information, we should have certainly called on him to ascertain if he has continued free from the disease since the operation was performed.

In a late Number we gave an opinion, that the organic disease, constituting stricture of the urethra, rectum, &c, after existing a certain period, takes upon itself an independent vitality, and that it is to be cured by such remedies as destroy the life of other parasytical animals, as saline preparations of iron, terebinthinates, caustics, &c. The ring-worm, which is of this class of productions, we know, may

be cured by dividing its edges with a lancet in two or three places, and a scirrhus will slough away after cutting through it. If, therefore, the organization constituting stricture gradually disappear after dividing it, as stated by Mr. Arnott, it affords a strong confirmation of our assertion. Of this fact we are satisfied, that a native chalybeate water injected into a stricture, urethra, or rectum, has not only proved very beneficial in allaying the irritation attendant on the organic disease, but has also acted specifically on the substance so as to diminish its bulk, and render it more elastic; and we hope in a short time to give some cases of organic stricture, in which its topical application, with the buchu leaves, has fully succeeded in effecting a cure. The remaining cases of the volume of Transactions we hope to notice in our next Number.

THE VAPOUR BATH, &c.

On no single function, except of a vital organ, does the general health depend more than on that of the skin. From the skin there appears to be three secretions; viz. gas, a subtle vapour termed *insensible* perspiration, and a condensed fluid termed *sensible* perspiration. The first, when the subject is healthy, appears to be nitrogen gas, vulgarly termed the *impure* part of the atmosphere; and with regard to the two last, a difference of opinion has existed among physiologists, some contending that they are two distinct secretions derived from different sources, and others that they differ only in form; but from the fact of the component parts being the same, the latter opinion is probably correct. The gas which escapes from the surface of the body, some have supposed to be the nitrogen, conveyed to the circulation by the lungs. During pulmonary consumption and inflammatory fever, some experimentalists have detected in the gaseous secretion, a considerable proportion of carbonic acid gas; and during the eruptive fever of small pox and measles, a small proportion of hydrogen. The sensible and insensible perspirations of a person in health, contain water with a very little gluten, and a small quantity of the muriates of ammonia and soda; but in gouty subjects, the phosphates of lime and soda, and phosphorous acid, have also been detected in them. In cases of cancer they have been found to contain hepatised ammonia. Those altered qualities of the perspiration, as well as of the gaseous secretions of the skin, have not met with that attention from the profession which they merit. By the experiments of the celebrated Sanctorio of Italy, who paid particular attention to the quantity of the excretions of the body, it appears, he ascertained that of eight pounds of aliment taken into the stomach daily, five pounds passed off insensibly, the excrementious matters amounting only to three pounds. By further experiments he discovered that a small proportion only of the quantity lost, was discharged by the skin; and from calculation, the internal surface of the lungs greatly exceeding that of the body, the greatest portion escaped from it. The sensible and insensible perspirations are considered analagous to the urine, in consequence of their chemical combination in a state of health being similar.

It is well known that where the secretion, either of the skin or kidneys, is increased, the other is diminished, so that those who perspire most make the least urine, and *vice versâ*.

Independent of the skin acting as an auxiliary to the kidneys in conveying superfluous fluid or excrementitious matter from the system, the perspirable matter is a regulator of the temperature of the body, by conducting from it superabundant heat. This power is so great, that when the body is gradually introduced to an atmosphere of 220 degrees (Farenheit), the temperature of it, in consequence of the evaporation of the perspirable matter from the surface, does not exceed the natural standard. In cases of inflammatory fever, the decrease of temperature of the body when the skin is brought into action, is well known to every practitioner; and from its quieting effects on the nervous system, and in allaying pain, as in gout, acute rheumatism, &c., it is also probable that it conducts from the body some subtle fluid, as the electric or galvanic. Whoever, therefore, considers the great importance of the functions of the skin in the animal economy, will readily admit the great value of those remedies and means which are capable of promoting them, or rendering the skin healthy. From the condition of the skin, more than a disordered state of the liver or stomach, we are convinced many internal organic diseases arise. When the skin does not perform its office, the viscera of the chest and abdomen become loaded with blood, and at length a deposit takes place in the cellular substance of one of them, which lays the foundation of the most serious organic mischief in the lungs, producing the peculiar animals termed tubercles, which on putrifying occasion tubercular consumption; and in the liver similar formations, or induration; and in the pylorus, or coats of the stomach, induration, &c. When such mischief is in some degree prevented by the increased action of the kidneys, which cannot however prevent visceral congestion, which is the consequence of diminished circulation of blood in the skin, the kidneys themselves become organically affected, so as to lay the foundation of incurable diabetes.

In a late number, we have noticed the mechanical influence of the skin in promoting the action of the absorbent system, not only in the extremities, but even in the viscera of the belly. When the elasticity or tonicity of the skin is reduced, the cellular substance, in consequence of inaction of the absorbents, becomes loaded with serum; but when the skin is supported by artificial means, as a bandage or roller, the absorbent vessels perform their office, and the œdematous swelling of the limb soon disappears. The effect of rollers in case of dropsy of the extremities is well known; and the abdominal bandage, noticed in an early number, by keeping the absorbent vessels in action, will prevent or remove that deposit in the cellular substance of the viscera, which may be termed the germ of organic disease.

The assistance the absorbent vessels receive from the mechanical support of the skin, is illustrated by the effect of the apparatus termed the air pump bath. After continuing a limb in it a few minutes, the cellular substance becomes so loaded, and the blood

vessels so distended in consequence of the skin losing the support of the atmospheric air, that in a short time it will become very considerably enlarged. Hence it appears, not only the action of the absorbent vessels, but that of the veins (which return the blood from the limb) is greatly dependant on the degree of tonicity or elasticity of the skin.

It is also of great importance to maintain a proper degree of tonicity or elasticity of the skin, in order to protect the body from the bad effects of a sudden change in the atmosphere. It has been satisfactorily ascertained, that every square inch of the surface of the body sustains a pressure from the air of fifteen pounds; and the surface of the body of a middle sized man being 15 square feet, he sustains the weight of about 14½tons. By such an enormous pressure the body would be crushed in a moment if all its parts were not filled with air, or some other elastic fluid, the spring of which is sufficient to counterbalance the weight of the atmosphere; for if any considerable degree of pressure be superadded to that of the air, as by going into deep water, &c. it is always severely felt, let it be ever so equable. The gravity of the atmosphere varying considerably, the degree of pressure of the air will at one time be greater than another on the body. On a very slight increase of the natural weight, when the weather is commonly fine, debilitated subjects feel braced and enlivened; but, on the contrary, when the weight is diminished, the weather is generally bad; and when the change is sudden, even people who enjoy a pretty good state of health, feel a listlessness and inactivity about them. The change from heavy to light, has a very great influence on a variety of diseases. In dropsical subjects, when the air is light, the accumulation of serum will often rapidly increase in a few hours, and the kidneys will nearly lose their power of acting. On old asthmatics, a sudden change from heavy to light, acts most unfavourably, and has occasioned sudden death: and on nervous, debilitated subjects, it will occasion most distressing depression of spirits, and almost an intolerable degree of languor. In cases of great debility, or on the termination of an acute fever, such a sudden change, by diminishing the action of the heart, or by reducing the vital powers, will endanger life if not terminate it. Hence the importance of attending to the state of the atmosphere as to its degree of gravity, for many alterations favourable and unfavourable, which have taken place in diseases, have been no doubt attributed to a medicine or some other agent, which were the consequences of atmospherical changes. Hence will appear evident to every person of common sense, the great importance of keeping up a proper state of vigour or elasticity of the skin, so as to prevent a degree of relaxation that may disturb the general health when the pressure of the atmosphere is considerably diminished. It was the practice of a German philosopher, to take an extra quantity of wine or spirits, when it appeared by his barometer that the atmosphere was light, to stimulate the vital powers, and to excite the action in the skin; and it is a fact worthy of notice, that the inebriate, (who is always very sensible of the effects of a change in the gravity of the air on his spirits,) requires a considerably greater quantity of wine, or

any other cordial, to exhilarate him, when the air is light, than when it is heavy.

We have made the preceding observations on the necessity of attending to the condition of the skin, in order to preserve health and relieve or cure disease, for the purpose of impressing on the minds of our readers the importance of a late simple invention of an air vapour-bath, by Captain Jekyll, of which the following is a representation.

The name of the inventor is, no doubt, well known to many of our readers, for many improvements in mechanical instruments. His own affliction induced him to direct his attention to the means of applying warm vapour to the surface of the body; the result of which has been the above invention of a portable vapour-bath, which has certainly many advantages over those that have hitherto been employed. The construction of this machine will be readily understood, by superficially examining the above cut; the dress of the patient being transparent, for the purpose of shewing the manner in which the patient is placed in it, and the mode of regulating the degree of temperature, and the quantity of vapour. The boiler is supplied with a safety valve; the tube which conducts the steam passes into a round box, under the feet of the patient, termed the dispenser. And by means of handles, (one of which is seen on the hand of the patient,) the cocks are turned so as to allow of the escape of the steam. The dispenser is of the shape of a cup, to allow of the introduction of any medicament, that may be thought proper to diffuse throughout the vapour. Since the above representation was taken, Mr. Green, of Bury Street, has made some very useful additions to it, for the purpose of applying the vapour to any

circumscribed part, as an enlarged gland, diseased joint, the eyes, &c. &c., which do not increase its bulk, and the weight of it only a few ounces. The great utility of the invention, especially in the country, where a warm-bath cannot be readily obtained, must appear obvious to all who are aware of the great importance of exciting perspiration, on the first attack of inflammatory or typhus fever, internal inflammation, gout, rheumatism, &c., independent of the the great advantage of keeping the skin healthy, by its occasional use. As a preventive remedy for gout and rheumatism, or rather for destroying the predisposition of the constitution to those diseases, it has proved a powerful auxiliary to abstemious regimen.

In our next number, we purpose noticing a very useful invention by Mr. Cooper, a respectable plumber, &c. of Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, of a domestic warm and cold bath, with other conveniences, for the use of a study or dressing-room; the whole of which lies in a case of the form of a wardrobe, and which is supplied either with cold or warm water, in the course of a few minutes. For the purpose of keeping up the secretion of the skin, and protecting the body against the changes which take place in the *temperature* of the atmosphere, washed leather has been lately recommended by Dr. Uwins and others, to be worn next the skin, in preference to flannel. The circumstances of the perspirable matter being condensed and retained by leather, in consequence of its close texture, are very great objections to it. The perspiration, on the contrary, readily passes through the flannel, or when it is rendered moist by copious perspiration, it is very soon dissipated by the heat of the body. The slight degree of irritation kept up in the skin by flannel, also entitles it to a decided preference.

MODERN MEDICINE.

Dr. Adam Dods, an eminent physician of the medico-chirurgical class, finding that the opinions he has given in his late work, entitled "The Physician's Guide," respecting the proper education and qualifications of a physician, have been intentionally misrepresented by some of his liberal *medical* friends, who, like mankind in general, condemn or undervalue the knowledge they do not possess, or doctrines they do not understand; has taken the trouble to collect the opinions of several respectable authors to corroborate his assertions, to satisfy those who have been duped by the plausible sophistry of his interested opponents, that his "medical sentiments" are neither peculiar nor extraordinary, and that the "innovations on the old established system," which the labours of the moderns have rendered necessary, are for the benefit of the public, and the honour of the professions. These opinions, chiefly taken from the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, the Medico-Chirurgical Review, the Gazette of Health, Pearsons Principle's of Surgery, and other works, he has published in a pamphlet, under the title of "Observations and Commentaries on Medicine, compared as a Science with the other learned Professions, Theology, Law, &c.; together with comparative Illustrations, shewing the important advantages to

be derived from the improved *modern system* of Medical Education and Practice, as now adopted in various parts of America, with an Elucidation of the Economy of the Human Body; the whole not only intended as *useful* and *necessary* information for the Student and young Practitioner, but for the general *use* and *benefit* of the Public."

What the doctor means by the "modern system of medical education and practice, which has lately been adopted in various parts of Europe and America," is, we suppose, the union of the three branches of medicine, so as to be practised by one person only: *i. e.* the person who styles himself a *doctor of medicine*, should be, as the title implies, *learned in medicine;* a part of science which comprehends anatomy, physiology, surgery, pathology, pharmacy, and chemistry; and capable, in all cases of disease that fall under his care, of bringing the rays of each department to bear on the important question of treatment. This, however, is not a modern system of medicine, for the most ancient physicians of Greece practised as physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries; *i. e.* Hippocrates and his cotemporaries were surgeons as well as physicians, and also furnished their patients with compound medicines. Speaking of the *policy* of dividing the practice of medicine into three departments, Dr. Dods observes:

"I am sorry to have occasion to mention, but it is a duty I owe to myself as well as to the public at large, to say, that in a certain city there are two respectable Surgeon-Apothecaries, who have both been forty years in extensive business, and who are now retiring from their more active duties, to the cool shades to regale, for a few years, until Death, the ghastly destroyer, pays them a visit, and aims his dart, as a matter of perfect indifference, with his usual Carbonari spirit. I should much wish to ask these gentlemen if, during their long practice, they ever recommended in consultation any Physician who did not in return punctiliously attend to their interests in prescribing medicines? This is a very simple, and I believe, not an improper question; but I suppose it will not be replied to. They will follow the advice of my Uncle Toby, "Wipe it over, and say nothing about it." In fact, it is impossible for any Apothecary, either young or old, to continue to attend to his practice, and act consistently towards his patients, unless he has some other source for the support of his domestic establishment than the mere emolument arising from the very *few* medicines which are necessary according to the modern system. For instance, on Tuesday evening, the 5th of the present month (August), I was requested to visit a patient at St. John's, near this city, who had just arrived from London. It was stated to me that he had been very dangerously ill for a month, and as his recovery had become hopeless, he was sent into the country. During the four weeks of his illness in London, (from the 6th of July to the 1st of August) he was attended by very able practitioners, and his Apothecary's bill for medicines only, amounted to £8. 7*s.* 6*d.* So much for the old system! In the course of a series of fourteen days of the above time, fifty-three draughts were sent to the

patient. What a precious banquet for his stomach!!! When, however, he came under my care, I employed quite a different plan and mode of practice from those which had been adopted in London, and at the end of the third week of my attendance (from the 5th to the 16th of August), his health was so much restored as to require no more medicine than a pill occasionally, and his Apothecary's bill amounted to £1. 9*s.* 8½*d.* only!"

The doctor labours to prove, what no man of common sense can for a moment doubt, that the best school for a physician is surgery and pharmacy; and that the physician who has not sobered the knowledge of the different departments of medicine he acquired at an university, by experience at the bed-side of patients, is not entitled to implicit confidence, nor can be competent to the management of a complex or serious malady. It is indeed most inconsistent for a man with a degree of M. D. from an English university, without any practical knowledge of medicine, and at the same time ignorant of the improvements of the moderns, to controul an apothecary in the treatment of a disease, who had been in practice of medicine thirty or forty years! In Greece, experience made the physician; but, in London, the diploma of the English university, although not a school of medicine, and although a knowledge of medicine is not necessary to entitle the candidate to a medical degree, makes a *consulting* physician; and the person who possesses this instrument, false as it is, is a *regular* physician, and takes precedence of the graduates of the first medical schools in the known world, Edinburgh and Glasgow; and what with his college, and certain petticoat interest, his guinea speculation generally proves successful.

Dr. Dods may rest assured, that the humbug of medicine which has been so successfully carried on in every town of this country, with as much effrontery as it has been in Worcester, under the garb of pretended classical learning, or a rote knowledge of dead languages, has been declining for the last thirty years, in proportion as the circulation of popular works on medicine has increased. People of common understanding are now capable of distinguishing the man of real merit from the pretender; and the person must be little better than an idiot, who prefers the advice of a M. D. of certain universities, who is not *practically* acquainted with disease, or who in fact cannot recognize a disease at the bed-side of a patient, of the symptoms of which he has read, although in a dead language,—to that of a practitioner whose knowledge is derived from experience and observation, and from whose attendance he will derive all the benefit the improved state of medicine can afford. Legitimate medicine, or monachism of medicine, has been long tottering in this country. We take credit for having shaken the odious edifice to its very foundation; and the artillery which the associated surgeon-apothecaries of England and Wales have lately discharged at it, has given it a body blow, which it cannot survive many months; and in the course of a few years a splendid system of medicine will, no doubt, emanate from the labours of the medico-chirurgical class of physicians and surgeon-apothecaries for the benefit of mankind; when, we venture to say, invalids will not allow a practitioner of

science, although practising under the humble title of surgeon-apothecary, to depend on the profit arising from the medicines he may take, for the support of his family and establishment.

Dr. Dods has added to his collection of evidence from different sources, in favour of his opinions, a description of the mechanism of the human body, with remarks on the offices of the most important parts in the animal economy.—Of this part, all we can say is, that it is a "*multum in parvo*," and adapted to the understanding of the generality of readers of popular works on medicine. It contains nothing new, and had the doctor entered more fully into the physiology of the most important organs, have noticed their connexions with each other, and more minutely described them by plates, this part of the work would have proved much more interesting and far more useful to the public.

ANATOMY, &c.

The fourth part of the series of anatomical plates, by Mr. Lizars, lecturer on anatomy and physiology in the university of Edinburgh, comprising a description of the muscles of the trunk of the body, has appeared.—When the second part of this valuable series was published, Mr. Lizars, having the respectability of the profession at heart, expressed great sorrow for the degraded state in which it had been placed in Edinburgh, and for the prospect of ruin of this celebrated medical school, from the great scarcity of dead bodies.

Mr. Lizars, for his manly exhortation to the professors of the university, met with "considerable censure." The winter sessions have since passed, and during this important part of residence of students, such has been the great scarcity of dead bodies, that the teachers of anatomy and surgery have not been able to follow their customary plans of demonstrating the human body; the consequence of which has been, many of the students have left the school in disgust, and gone either to Dublin or Paris; while a still greater number, deprived of the means of dissecting, have contented themselves with lectures on *theories*, and with *grinding*; and entered on the *practice* of their profession, ignorant of its fundamental principles.

"Seeing, then," says Mr. Lizars, "that our fellow-creatures are daily tortured by the *ignorant* or the *half instructed*, that bone-setters are more consulted than surgeons, quacks than physicians, who, that is interested in the success of his profession, in the prosperity of his native place, and in the welfare of mankind in general, ought to shrink from attempting, at least to point out, if he cannot arrest such calamities!

"The entire ruin of this Medical School, (he thinks) can *only* be prevented by the *timely* interposition of the patrons, who (he says) have *ample* means in their power, and can surely do, what their forefathers did a century before them.* The desertion of students

* In the Council Register for 1694, and the years following, it is recorded that all unclaimed dead bodies in the charitable institutions, or in the streets, were given for

of medicine for some years past has been such, that it is impossible any longer to mince this matter: the Medical School has been the theme of discussion both at home and abroad; and the surgery of Edinburgh has been hitherto held up to derision, so that there remains no other means of retrieving the character of the university but by *instantly* rectifying the great master evil. Let this school have *material*, and it will soon revive, and speedily eclipse those of Paris, London, and Dublin. Deprive it of *material*, and a few years will irretrievably sink it into oblivion, in despite of all the celebrity, and all the exertions of professors and teachers.* A blind infatuation prevents some from observing this crisis; they imagine the fame of the school and its professors will support it for ever, not considering, that where there is no seed, there can be no fruit. Let a student have the acids, alkalis, earths, metals, and mineral compounds, with a chemical apparatus and a system of chemistry; let him explore the mountains and valleys with a Flora Scotica; let him have *subjects*, with a work on Practical Anatomy; let him have the various medicines, with the dispensatory; and let him walk the Cowgate and Canongate for patients, with a system of the practice of physic and surgery; and we predict, that he will become a physician or surgeon, as superior to those educated by the present system of teaching at this school, as Monro Secundus and John Hunter† were to the quacks of their day."

Mr. Lizars apologises for the physiological and pathological observations on the arteries and nerves having not yet been published; he trusts, however, his various avocations arising from practice, teaching, and making the dissections and drawings of the muscles, will be considered an ample apology by his indulgent readers. As his labours in teaching have terminated for a time, he now pledges himself to give the physiology and pathology of the nervous and arterial systems during the ensuing summer: these (he says) are already prepared, but require arrangement and condensation for the press. The observations on the muscles he will give when the plates illustrative of them are published, at which time he promises to classify the muscles, and present a tabular view of them, which he has been prevented doing, in consequence of not having been able to display all the muscles. In the fourth part he has divided the muscles into those of the trunk, those of the upper extremity, those of the lower extremity, and those of the head, so as to make them distinct subjects. Those who wish to

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dissection to the College of Surgeons, to one or two of its individual members, and to the Professor of Anatomy. All the medical schools of the continent are openly and publicly supplied with *subjects* who have died friendless in the public charities.

* The College of Surgeons of Edinburgh sent last year to Paris one of their members, with a salary of £300 per annum, who was empowered to expend £500 in anatomical preparations: this gentleman, however, has been obliged to return, in consequence of the jealousy of our Parisian brethren.

† Monro Secundus was educated by his father in the dissecting-room, when *subjects* were obtained from the public charities, and who that remembers the extraordinary talents of this profound physician and surgeon, does not lament his loss to this city? The celebrated John Hunter, equally gifted as a philosopher and a surgeon, studied in the dissecting-room under his brother in London.

make themselves more minutely acquainted with the *attachments* of the muscles, may consult Part I. as they proceed; and this we earnestly recommend to *junior* anatomists, that they may acquire a perfect knowledge both of the muscles and of the bones.

The drawings, from which the plates are engraved, are not copies, but taken from recent subjects; and the delay which has taken place in the publication of the fourth part has arisen from the impossibility of procuring dead bodies for the dissection rooms, in consequence of the places of interment being well watched; and of the bodies of those who die in the infirmary being claimed by their friends, in consequence of a report prevailing, that they were all sent to the dissection room; and the coffins which were consigned to the grave, under the usual solemn ceremony, instead of containing the remains of a "departed brother or sister," were filled with sand and old linen. The dissection rooms of London have, from the same causes, been very badly supplied with "materials;" and many hundred pupils have, in consequence, not had an opportunity of becoming "familiarly or practically acquainted with the use of the knife." Mr. Brookes has, however, entered into a contract with some of the physicians and surgeons of the hospitals of Paris, with the *winking* sanction of our own government, for a regular importation of dead bodies; which, to the great credit of the privy council, are not to be subject even to the *ad valorem* duty!! The contract with the Parisian physicians and surgeons is so advantageous, that Mr. Brookes has already entered into an agreement to supply all the lecturers in London with adults, at the rate of two guineas each, which have been selling as high as fourteen guineas in London and Edinburgh; and as the contract is made with the medical officers of the hospitals of Paris, there can be little doubt of the dissection rooms of London being in future regularly supplied. At the hospitals of Paris, the price of a dead body is only five francs! When we advised an importation of dead bodies from France, it was opposed, because it would afford a facility of smuggling; Lord Liverpool supposing that the cavities, instead of lungs, intestines, &c. might contain lace, and other contraband goods. To prevent the possibility of such a traffic, Mr. Brookes has agreed that each case of bodies shall be opened at the Custom-house, under his superintendence, or that of some surgeon he may appoint, in the presence of a Custom-house officer.

As an excuse for this ceremony, it is said that the officers allowed a coffin to pass without opening it, which was said to contain the body of an Englishman who had died in France.—About three days after it was conveyed from the Custom-house, another coffin was landed with the same inscription; which, on being opened, was found to contain the real body of the person whose name was on the plate. The inference therefore was, that the first coffin was filled with smuggled goods! We have given this statement, to induce Mr. Lizars, or some of the lecturers on anatomy in Edinburgh, to follow the laudable example of Mr. Brookes.

In consequence of the great scarcity and high price of dead bodies in London, Mr. Lizars' plates, being taken from recent subjects,

have experienced a very great demand. Such is the accuracy with which they have been executed, and the peculiar natural ease they exhibit, that on examining them with a microscope, some pupils have fancied that the subject was really before them. A view of the plates, with the aid of a magnifying glass, brought to our recollection many a body which we dissected in the theatre of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and we could easily imagine ourselves in the place with the real bodies before us.

Each part of the plates is accompanied by a book, containing not only the names of the different parts, with numerical references to each; but also very valuable physiological, pathological, and surgical observations, which greatly add to their value, both to surgeons and physicians. This part is entirely free from the many ridiculous theories, or flights of fancy, of some dreamers, which have lowered the profession of this country in the estimation of men of science on the continent. The anatomy is minutely accurate, the physiology sound, and the pathology and manual surgery, in a practical point of view, most valuable.

The superior manner in which the work is executed, and the low price at which it is sold, indubitably prove that the sole object of the author is to communicate useful knowledge, and that he prefers honourable fame to wealth.

An Italian anatomist, who lately visited this country, in order to impress on his memory the characters of the teachers of anatomy in London, by artificial means, or what is termed the artificial memory, made choice of the lower part of the front of the head of the skeleton, termed the *jolter* portion. Mr. Bell and Mr. Shaw are represented by the *upper* and *lower* JAW; Messrs. Brookes and Mayo, by the *grinders;* Sir Astley Cooper and Mr. Grainger, by the *canine* teeth; Mr. Abernethy, and his demonstrator, by the *dentes sapientiæ*, or teeth of knowledge; and Mr. Blizard, and his demonstrator, by the *incisores*, or mere cutters. To impress on his mind the opinions he had formed of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, he compared them with the *hydrocephalus externus et internus;* the Apothecaries' Company, with the *pthisis pulmonalis,* vulgarly termed *a decline.* The learned physiologists, as Sir Everard Home, &c., he connected with the *cerebellum;* and some *eminent* authors, as Dr. Bree, Dr. Philip, Dr. Paris, &c., he concatenated with a peculiar fungus, vulgarly termed a puff-ball. Some of our leading chemists, as Pearson, Phillips, &c., he connected with the clouds, having always found them *in nubibus;* and the Editors of certain journals, with *bells* having hollow heads and long tongues. This artificial mode of improving memory, we suspect, will not meet with the approbation of some of our medical luminaries.

SCROFULA.

Mr. Whiteman, of Fleet-street, has lately published a second edition of a treatise on the nature, &c. of scrofula, from the pen of Mr. William Farr, a respectable surgeon of London. The work is dedicated, by permission, to Mr. Cline. The mode of treatment

which Mr. Farr recommended in his first edition, like a man of science, who is anxious to ascertain facts, he admits has not proved successful in *every* case in which it has been employed; and indeed, can a surgeon of experience and observation expect that any plan should be capable of curing the disease in the advanced stage in which medical aid is generally sought? To correct the scrofulous diathesis, and to restore a part to health whose organization had been disturbed by a long continued morbid action, is too much to expect from any single remedy. "Nevertheless," says Mr. Farr, "I can with confidence assert, that four cases out of five will admit of a radical cure, provided the means herein recommended are properly and judiciously applied; but it must not be expected that the result will be equally favourable, if *my* mode of treatment, both in scrofula and cancer, be conducted in the way I have occasionally noticed during my professional visits to various parts of the kingdom."

For the *basis* of the mode of treatment Mr. Farr has adopted, he admits he is indebted to the late Mr. Brandish, whose treatise on the efficacy of the caustic alcali, as an internal remedy, we have noticed in an early Number; but it appears Mr. Farr has varied it, not only according to the stage of the disease, but the peculiarity of the case and constitution of the patient. He has also had recourse to mercurial inunction.

"Many practitioners," says he, "have asked, and perhaps it may be considered a pertinent question, Will not the influence by the alterative action of mercury, in the scrofulous diathesis, be attended with the same beneficial result when taken internally, as by the unpleasant mode of introducing it by the absorbent vessels of the skin? — Certainly not," says Mr. F.; "for, independent of its disagreeing with the stomach and bowels, when used internally, it loses a power which, I have reason to imagine, it exerts upon the whole superficies of the body, by continuity of surface, though its application and friction is limited to a small space, an arm or leg, for example. The power to which I allude consists in removing any obstruction to the free exit of the perspirable matter, by increasing the action of the capillary vessels of the skin universally; thus preventing any inordinate accumulation of morbid secretions in the intestinal canal, which I know to be a most frequent consequence of disordered functions of the skin. To this I am inclined to attribute the advantages which an external employment of this mineral possesses over its internal use; setting aside the debility induced in the stomach and bowels by its *internal* exhibition.

"Much as I respect the authority of Mr. Brandish, I cannot help differing with that writer where he says, 'It struck me that mercurial ointment, properly rubbed in, would disperse scrofulous tumours, as it is known to do venereal ones.' Although I would not presume to question this gentleman's perfect knowledge of the influence of mercury in lues, he is of course aware, that until the action of this mineral is established in the system, the venereal affection will continue with unabated violence. How then is it, that he says, in page 38 of his Treatise, 'During the use of the ointment, I would have

him take a dose of salts every four or five weeks, or oftener, if he should find his mouth sore?' I think it is clear," says Mr F. "that the operation of mercury in the cure of scrofula is not satisfactorily explained by this reasoning; for I am convinced it can be productive of beneficial results only when used as an alterative, by exciting the action of the liver, thereby inducing a healthful supply of bile; thus regulating the action of the bowels, and controlling the various secretions appropriated to chylification.

"Neither am I disposed to allow the salutary effect which Mr. Brandish supposes it to possess, from being rubbed in immediately below the seat of the diseased glands, that it may the more readily pass through them; nor do I think its action is the more effectually exerted in dispersing venereal buboes, by being rubbed in close to the inguinal glands.

"Before I enter," proceeds Mr. Farr, "upon the medical treatment, I shall say a few words more on diet, clothing, and exercise. I have before noticed them under the denomination of preventives, or, in other words, as preservatives against scrofula; but they are alike important, and ought not to be dispensed with, in conjunction with other means for its removal: and although I have succeeded in curing some bad cases, under every disadvantage with respect to diet and clothing, for the purpose of proving more strongly the powerful and indisputably good effects of the combined remedies I am about to point out, yet this is no reason why such efficient auxiliaries should be neglected when they are within the reach of persons so afflicted. It has, I know, been stated by several practitioners, that the improved diet enjoined to patients by Mr. Brandish, aided by country air and exercise, was more conducive to their recovery than the medicines he adminstered. As far as diet is concerned I have already denied the assertion, and when air and exercise are considered as materially expediting the cure, if not by their united aid actually effecting it, I can truly say, in answer to this, that during the time I was dresser to Mr. Cline, I perfectly succeeded in curing two females, in the wards of Elizabeth and Mary, in Saint Thomas's Hospital, who had been long the subjects of this disease, which resisted the common means employed in hospital practice, and where good air and proper exercise, from the regulations of the establishment, were not to be obtained. If, then, I have proved the success of this plan, under the accumulated disadvantages of situation, as before enumerated, as well as want of proper diet and clothing, and also good air and well regulated exercise, how can it be argued that, assisted by such advantages, it should fail in curing the disease, when even without them it is known to have succeeded?"

Mr. Farr gives the following formula for making the caustic alcali which he is in the habit of prescribing:—

Take of Impure Potass, six pounds;
Unslacked Lime, and
Fresh Wood Ashes, of each 2 pounds;
Boiling Water, 6 gallons.

"During the time the water is boiling, the lime is to be added gradually; and when ebullition has ceased, the potash should be

put in and stirred till the lumps are dissolved: lastly, add the wood-ashes and stir all together; then put it into a glazed earthen vessel, and let it stand twenty-four hours, at the expiration of which time it should be drawn off *guttatim*. "This alkali," observes Mr. F., "should be kept in glass-stopper bottles so as to exclude the atmospheric air as much as possible; but as this can never be done effectually, it will occasionally be necessary to add more lime, in order to attract the carbonic acid gas, that may be introduced with the air; the union of which with caustic alkali forms a carbonate of potash; and indeed if the carbonate of potash were not to be found naturally, or otherwise obtained, it might be made by passing a current of carbonic acid gas over a quantity of the caustic alkali. The existence of the carbonate of potash in this alkali," says Mr. F. "may be proved, by putting a small portion of diluted sulphuric acid into the caustic alkali, which will immediately occasion the extrication of gaseous bubbles; and when an alkali, prepared as I have described, is found to effervesce by the union of an acid, it can no longer be called a caustic alkali;—the most prominent feature in which is, that it will not effervesce on uniting with an acid as with carbonates, and consequently cannot have the same salutary effect on scrofula as a pure caustic alkali; and I am fully convinced," says Mr. F. "that a want of attention to this particular point has invariably been the chief cause of the failure of my practice in other hands; in proof of which I will adduce an instance or two in this place. A gentleman in Wiltshire wrote to me in consequence of his daughter having glandular enlargements in her neck: I directed her to take the caustic alkali, which she did for some weeks, and a material reduction in the tumours took place. Some time subsequent to this, he wrote to me again, stating, that the tumours then remained stationary. As no other cause could be assigned, I considered that the properties of the alkali might be altered from frequent exposure to air; and requested him to return it to my chemist, which he did. I found my supposition correct; for the alkali readily effervesced on adding an acid. Fresh caustic alkali was sent him, and the tumours again began to diminish; and as every care was taken to prevent a recurrence of this circumstance, the swellings were eventually dispersed.—A medical practitioner near Bedford-square requested me to meet him to see a case of scrofula, which he said he had been treating on my plan for nearly a year without any favourable result. I requested him to shew me the alkali he had been giving the patient: it was the liquor potassæ; and on my putting a few drops of diluted sulphuric acid into some of it, gaseous bubbles escaped in abundance. I told him, if he would change the alkali for that which I prepared, and make some alterations in the local treatment, I considered he would no longer find cause to blame me or my plan of treatment; which was soon proved by the patient's amendment. I have seen so many instances in my own practice, when the properties of the alkali had been changed, from reasons before given, that whenever my patients cease to improve I uniformly look, in the first place, to the state of the alkali, and generally find the cause there."

To illustrate the superiority of his constitutional and topical management of scrofula over that of Mr. Brandeth, or any other practitioner, Mr. Farr has added an Appendix to his work, containing twenty cases in which it proved successful, from which we have selected the following, as the most decisive of the advantages of his plan of treatment.

"Catherine Andrews, of Bretforton, a girl nearly twelve years of age, of fair complexion, and delicate constitution, was affected with enlargement and ulceration of the sub-maxillary and contiguous glands on the left side; these were also accompanied by caries of the lower jaw. I learned from her mother, that these affections had been preceded by and attended with an enlarged abdomen: this was not so apparent at the time of my visit, as before; but, on enquiry, I found that the biliary secretion was defective; and that latterly marasmus had supervened. On such information, I was satisfied in my own mind that this was a well defined case of scrofula, originating in derangement of the chylopoietic viscera; and I accordingly directed the mercurial friction and the alkali, conjoined with an occasional dose of rhubarb.

"Under this treatment, without any variation, excepting that I recommended an improvement in the diet, if such was within their means, the disease gradually subsided, and was ultimately removed."

HATCHING AND REARING OF POULTRY AND GAME BIRDS.

There is a very interesting exhibition, at the Egyptian Hall, in Piccadilly, of an apparatus for hatching eggs by steam; invented by Mr. J. H. Barlow, an ingenious mechanic, who attends to explain the process and means of rearing the chicken so hatched; and to demonstrate the changes which take place in the egg, in the course of every twenty-four hours, till the fœtus is complete.

The process of hatching eggs by heat, artificially produced, although common in Egypt, China, and in the East Indies; is, we believe, not well understood in this country. The oven of Mr. Barlow's apparatus holds about fifteen hundred eggs. The steam, which is produced by a boiler about two yards from the oven, is conveyed by tubes through the layers of the oven, so as to keep up a temperature in the confined atmosphere, of about 108 degrees (Farh.), and to admit only a quantity of vapour to the internal air, sufficient to prevent evaporation from the surfaces of the eggs, without condensing either on the eggs or the sides of the inner chamber. By means of this ingenious contrivance, the eggs of hens, ducks, &c. may be hatched during any part of the year; and the chicken, being kept in apartments beneath the oven, do not suffer from cold air during winter, and are remarkably lively and healthy. Another great recommendation of this invention is, its being supplied with a self-adjuster, which keeps the atmosphere at the proper degree of temperature; for at that degree the metal of the valve expands, so as to prevent any further access of heat; and the boiler having a safety valve, the whole requires little attendance, and the manage-

ment may be entrusted to an ignorant servant. The furnace, which produces the steam, may also be supplied with large tubes, so as to furnish a green or hot house, or the rooms of a house, with warm air, without affecting the temperature of the atmosphere of the oven.

The exhibition of the changes which take place in the rudiments of the fœtus, and of the rapidity with which it advances to perfection, to the physiologist, and persons of philosophical curiosity, cannot but prove most highly interesting.

When the egg has been in the oven only twelve hours, the little white flat circle on the membrane, or coat of the vitellus or yelk, which Fabricius and others considered a defect, instead of the first rudiment, is much dilated; and this process continues till the third day, at the end of which a wonderful alteration takes place almost every hour. On the close of this day (the third), the life, which we may compare to that of a vegetable, suddenly changes to that of an animal; a faint pulsating motion being evident to the eye, and the hem of the spot exhibits a peculiar purple blush.—At the end of the fourth day, the part of the pulsating motion is evidently that of a heart, and the aorta is seen to contain red blood.—On the fifth day, the shape changes from that of a maggot to the form of a chicken, the wings and legs being visible; and on the head, the protuberances of the brain, bill, and eyes.—On the sixth, the rudiments of the lungs and liver are evident—on the seventh, it begins to move its limbs, and stretch out the neck, and sometimes opens the bill; on examining the protuberances of the head, no regular organization of the brain appears, the contents being only a clear water; the claws are also distinguishable, but there is no appearance of a chest or belly.—On the eighth day, it is more capable of exercising the extremities.—On the ninth day, if the egg be not healthy, it is common for the fœtus to die.—On the tenth day, the connexion of the eyes to the head is much firmer, and the head is larger than the body.—On the eleventh, the whole viscera of the belly appear, the texture of which is very tender.—On the twelfth day, the veins, accompanying the arteries, are to be seen; the feathers begin to shoot in black points.—On the fourteenth, the heart is concealed in the cavity of the chest, but the entrails are to be seen obtruding out of the body; the skin of the back, &c. is now covered with plumes; and the ball of the eye and eyelids distinct.—On the fifteenth day, the skull is formed, so as to enclose the brain; the tail has the form of a rump; and the entrails, which were white before, exhibit a ruddy flesh colour.—Till the sixteenth day, the yelk does not diminish in bulk, but the white portion of the egg (albumen) has daily diminished.—On the nineteenth, the albumen or white is entirely consumed.—On the twentieth day, it cracks the shell, by its bill—and on the twenty-first, it makes its escape from the shell.——At this time there are four eggs of the ostrich in the oven, several eggs of the partridge, pheasant, and other birds. For the purpose of demonstrating the diurnal changes in the egg, a portion of the shell is removed, after which it is placed in a strong light, within the proper focus of a powerful magnifying glass, for the inspection of the visitors, at the trifling expence of one shilling each.

Mr. Barlow has published two pamphlets on this most useful invention, and interesting exhibition of the fœtus. The first work, which is embellished with descriptive plates, is entitled, "The Art and Method of hatching and rearing all Kinds of domestic Fowls and game Birds by Steam." And the second, "The daily Progress and extraordinary Appearance of the Chick in the Egg, and the Changes which take place during Hatching, in the Steam Apparatus; with an interesting Account of the Composition of the Eggs, with the Author's Experiments on them."

ROT IN SHEEP.

Mr. Towne, of Newark, the scientific author of two very useful works, "The Farmer's Directory," and "The Farmer's and Grazier's Guide;" has lately published a treatise on the Rot in Sheep, with the view of illustrating the symptoms, and the exciting and proximate causes of this very destructive malady.

Mr. Towne attributes the source of this disease to the existence of a species of parasitical animal, denominated the fluke; which, he thinks, owes its origin to an insect, which deposits its eggs in such situations as are best suited to support the young they produce; and for the purpose of this process, he supposes the exhalations of different vegetable productions attract different species of insects.

"Moisture and warmth," says Mr. Towne, "which constitute the prolific principle of vegetation, furnish the bed of incubation for these animals; and hence they most commonly inhabit such soils as are retentive of moisture, and are imbibed in a state of ova by the sheep, while grazing in those parts, the rich herbage of which is eagerly sought after, and greedily devoured by them. An innumerable quantity is doubtlessly often taken in with the food, and destroyed during the action of mastication: but such of them as survive the process, pass from the stomach into the duodenum, and, taking the advantage of the common duct being open, they proceed forward to the region of the liver, and become inmates of the pori biliarii.—Here commence their destructive ravages."

Supposing it possible for the ova to be hatched during the short time they remain in the stomach, only a few hours, is it possible that, on entering the duodenum, the animals should have strength to make their way into the gall bladder, or to the liver, through the biliary duct; which, when bile is not escaping from it, is in a state of collapse? If it were possible for the animal to advance along the biliary duct, how is it to get into the *substance* of the liver? One great objection to this theory is, that the bile itself would destroy the life of an animal so produced, if it escaped the action of the gastric juice; and another fatal one is, the peculiar animal termed the fluke is found occupying the ducts which convey bile to the gall bladder, and not in those which convey it into the duodenum. They are, we believe, never found in the substance of the liver; and in the biliary vessels, we conceive, they cannot do much, if any, mischief. The tubercles and hydatids, which are found in the liver, are very different productions, and probably owe their origin to deposits of lymph

or febrin, the consequence of inflammatory action. The disease termed Rot, appears to us to be the last stage of inflammation of the lungs, and peritoneal covering of the liver and intestines; and the presence of hydatids, &c. which is discovered on opening the body, is very likely accidental. It is worthy of notice, that the existence of the animal termed the fluke is so common in the sheep, that even the most healthy are not free from them. In the examination of the tubercles of sheep, which we have lately made, we have not met with one sheep in which we did not discover the fluke in the biliary vessels, which convey bile to the gall bladder; and even in those in which they were most numerous, the substance of the liver was healthy. That equivocal generation of a certain class of parasitical animals takes place in the living animal body is, we believe, a fact, admitted by the most enlightened physiologists or pathologists of the present day; and no one attempts to attribute their production to eggs conveyed into the system.

If Mr. Towne's theory respecting the source of the rot, which, according to his calculation, destroys one hundred and fifty thousand sheep annually, in this country, be *bad;* it appears his chemical remedy for its prevention and cure, which, he says, he obtains from vegetable productions by distillation, is *good*; for such has been its general good effects, during a trial of three years, in various counties, that it is now patronised by the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society, and by the first graziers of the counties of Leicester and Nottingham. We shall obtain a bottle of it, for the purpose of giving the composition of it, so far as it can be ascertained by chemical analysis, in an early number.

TREAD MILL.

In our last article on the introduction of the tread-mill, as an instrument of prison discipline, we cursorily pointed out the fundamental principles of criminal jurisprudence, and endeavoured to show, that the true object of punishment, is the reformation of the offender and the prevention of crime. For inasmuch as the prevention of disease is better than its cure, whether the disease be of a physical or moral character, a wise and provident legislature ought studiously to deter from the commission of offences, either by the terrors of law, or the influence of the moral sanction.—"Venienti occurrite morbo," is the maxim of practical wisdom and enlightened policy.

The evils of a defective mode of prison discipline, have of late years undergone a rigid investigation; and by the exertions of some distinguished Members of Parliament, and the unwearied assistance of a few benevolent individuals, the true principles of penal law have been established by the clearest statements and the most unanswerable reasoning. The end and aim of prison discipline, is now universally admitted to be the reformation of the criminal, and his dismissal from incarceration a better subject, and a worthier man, than when he entered the walls of the dungeon. It is a philosophical truth, which may be rigidly demonstrated, that no *act* can

be committed, without the *prior assent of the mind;* therefore, it follows, that the body is the machine, and under the control and direction of the mind. And proceeding on this hypothesis, the friends of liberal opinions recommend the universal instruction of the people; for as the mind governs the body, the overt acts of the body must be considered, as external *indicia*, or manifestations of the inward working of the mind. Now, in a savage state, human nature is prone to cruelty; but education mollifies and tames down the native ferocity of man, and mildness of disposition is co-extensive with the cultivation of mind. Hence, the higher orders are affable and polite to their inferiors; while tradesmen, and mechanics, are supple to their betters, coarse with their equals, and insolent to their dependants. If this chain of argument be conclusive, it follows, that if all men were sufficiently enlightened to comprehend the duties of morality and religion, they, by the force of their *minds*, would soon compel their *bodies* to obey; in other words, the ascendancy of mind would be so complete, that a state of social happiness would be produced, of more solid and lasting character, than the *poetical* Utopia of the golden age.

It may be objected to this system, that many criminals are so hardened in delinquency, that no instruction or exhortation would induce them to quit the paths of vice. We admit the force of the objection, and concede, that in some cases, no hope can be entertained of mental reformation. How then, is this class of delinquents to be deterred from continuing in their old career?—By punishment; and, in our opinion, no instrument appears better calculated for the purpose, than the tread-mill.

There can be only two possible objections to the use of this machine; either that it is inoperative, or that it is cruel. We have heard no complaints on the first account, though much affected sensibility has been displayed on the second. This is the age of cant and hypocrisy: law, physic, and religion are all prostituted to pecuniary profit. A lawyer gets into a certain assembly; he declaims against profusion, arbitrary power, unconstitutional laws, and so forth; a snug place, with a large income, stops the mouth of the brawler, and he quietly reposes beneath the shade of ministerial influence. The physician, eager for the lucrative profits of the guinea trade, affects to be the victim of sensibility; his delicate feelings are riven by the sight of distress; he talks eloquently on the infirmities of human nature, the pangs of sickness, the silent sorrows of poverty, and the heart-rending "secrets of the prison-house." Forthwith he publishes: the puff oblique, the puff direct, and the puff by implication, are inlisted into the service of the literary expedition: by inserting the advertisement of the book a certain number of times, at a certain price, favourable critiques are procured; the Dr. rises in celebrity; his chemical, surgical, and physiological knowledge is the theme of admiration; and if he should be humane and gentle, and prescribe nothing but sugar'd-water, or a little coloured peppermint-water, who would not patronize such a disciple of Hippocrates? How can such a character be otherwise than a good doctor!

But the most disgusting species of modern cant, is religious cant. A knot of illiberal sectarians, calling themselves, *par excellence*, the saints, (inasmuch as none but themselves can, by their account, be admitted into Paradise) are eternally pestering the public with lamentations over the fallen state of man, his corrupt nature, his sinful lusting after the flesh, and the temporal advantage of this transitory life. These puritanical zealots are most diligent in observing the forms and ceremonies of the church; their deportment is studied and severe; they denounce the enjoyments of this world "as snares of the evil one;" and balls, theatres, and exhibitions are execrated and abjured. By their hypocritical pretence to superior sanctity, the saints have acquired a most alarming influence, and they are politic enough to secure by activity what they have gained by fraud. An instance of sanctified humanity has been related to us from authority on which we can rely. A saint of the first water has made himself conspicuous in putting down slavery in the West Indies, and he lately prohibited the use of sugar in his own family; but—"*risum teneatis amici*," the saint carried on most extensively the trade of a sugar-baker!!!

We have made these remarks to shew the general character of the persons who oppose the introduction of the tread-mill. We have thus made out a *primâ facie* case; but we shall prove the affirmative of our position, and shew from incontestable evidence, that the tread-mill is not a cruel or torturing instrument. The committee of the Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline, after the fullest investigation, declare "that they can discover nothing in the proper and moderate application of this punishment, that is irreconcileable with the feelings of humanity; that the healthiness of the tread-wheel exercise is satisfactorily proved; that the opinions of the medical men concur in this opinion;" and after alluding to the work of Sir John Cox Hippisley, they conclude by saying, that "against evidence so conclusive, a judgment formed principally from abstract reasoning, and unsupported by that peculiar experience which the daily observation of a prison surgeon affords, can have but little weight." In addition to this decisive opinion of the Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline, we are able to subjoin the corroborating testimony of some respectable surgeons. The surgeon to the prison at Cheshire certifies thus:—"This is to certify, that from the experience I have had of the tread-wheel in this prison, I consider it conducive to the general health of the prisoners; nor have I found its employment productive of any local affection whatever in the lower extremities."—Signed, James Potter, Surgeon.

In Essex the surgeon makes a similar statement; at Gloucester, even more satisfactory; at Horsley, the governor states that it is in no respect injurious to health; and from Lancaster the accounts are equally decisive. Before we conclude, let us caution our readers against the common error of confounding the *use* of a thing with the *abuse* of it. The tread-mill, like every thing else, may be misapplied: but a man of common sense would not on that account blame the *machine*, but the *conductor* of it. Accidents, we admit,

have occurred; one or two persons have sprained their ancles; but these contingencies must be expected. If accidents happened more frequently in this species of machinery than in any other, the objection would be valid. But though more than fifty tread-wheels are in operation, not more than five or six accidents have taken place. Therefore the objection falls to the ground.

THE LATE MISS M'AVOY AND DR. RENWICK.

A report having been industriously circulated by some medical gentlemen of Liverpool, that Miss M'Avoy, whose wonderful powers of distinguishing colours, and reading by means of her fingers, we noticed in a former Number, was an impostor,—and that her physician, Dr. Renwick, had countenanced the imposition,—the doctor has, from a sense of duty to the public and to himself, published some remarks on her case to clear the character of the young woman after her death of so foul a charge. The facts of blind people having been able to discover colours by the sense of touch, and deaf ones of distinguishing tones by placing their fingers on the case of a pianoforte during playing, being established by numerous well authenticated cases, no medical man who is acquained with the complicated nature of the nervous system, and how much one sense is increased by the loss of another, we presume, will say, that it is impossible for a person to distinguish printed letters, or words, by the touch. The fact of Miss M'Avoy being blind, did not rest on her own assertion, but was evident to every person acquainted with the anatomy and diseases of the eye; for the pupils did not move on suddenly passing the hand or fingers across the eyes; nor on suddenly exposing them to the glare of a lighted candle, or the stronger light of the sun. Even if she were not blind, the modes of blindfolding, adopted by many sceptics, were of that nature as completely to have prevented her seeing; but whether the article was placed before her, even when so completely blindfolded, or behind her, she exhibited the same proofs of her most extraordinary powers. Dr. Renwick is a gentleman of the greatest integrity, and too great a friend to science to sanction deception; and those who are acquainted with his acuteness, well know that he is not likely to be duped by imposture. Mr. Bullock, the celebrated naturalist of London, paid Miss M'Avoy a visit for the purpose of ascertaining whether she was an impostor or not. He completely blindfolded her, and placed a printed paper behind her, which he had not exposed to any one present; and after passing one of her fingers over it, she mentioned the contents. He then altered the hands of his watch, and after the young woman passed her finger over the *glass*, she stated the precise situation of the hour and minute hands. This statement we received from Mr. Bullock, and we are satisfied that no consideration whatever would induce him to sanction an imposition, and that he is the last man in the world that is likely to be deceived by the tricks of the *most* artful impostor, or what are denominated conjurors. We are surprised that a physician of such eminence in his profession as Dr. Renwick should condescend to notice the illiberal assertions of a set of men who are *clearly* actuated only by unworthy motives.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 103.] To JULY 1, 1824. [Vol. IX.

Of the late THOMAS CHEVALIER, Esq.

Surgeon Extraordinary to the King, Professor of Anatomy and Surgery to the Royal College of Surgeons of London, Fellow of the Royal Society, &c. &c. &c.

This eminent surgeon and practical christian, "shuffled off his mortal coil" on Wednesday, the 9th inst. To the biographical sketch we have given of him in our 73rd Number, we have nothing to add.

Amidst the distressing affliction his death has occasioned among his numerous friends, and regret among the scientific part of the profession, it must be no inconsiderable alleviation to the affliction of his relatives, that a son survives who emulates the virtues of his late respected father, and is qualified, by a classical education and hospital and private practice, to succeed him.

NEW LONDON PHARMACOPŒIA, TRANSLATED BY MR. PHILLIPS.

(Continued from page 929.)

As a guide for "medical students" in prescribing medicines, Mr. Phillips has subjoined to each chemical combination, a list of what are termed by the chemists of the day *incompatibles*, that is, such articles which will disturb the constituents and produce new products; and in this important part of medicine, he and his colleagues, Mr. Thompson and Dr. Paris, have made a very imposing display of chemical science, a display well calculated to intoxicate medical students, but with a sober practitioner of experience, cannot fail to excite contempt.

It is, indeed, a very modest undertaking for a chemist, who is ignorant of the most important department of medicine termed therapeutical, and who has never had an opportunity of witnessing the effects of the different compositions on diseases, to lay down rules for prescribing remedies. The value of a composition, according to this chemist's idea of prescriptions, is to be estimated not by its *effects* on a disease, or on the constitution, but by its chemical characters!! and if the ingredients be incompatible, according to the laws of modern chemistry, they are to be abandoned as *unscientific*, although they have been found to succeed in the cure of the diseases for which they are recommended by men of long experience and accurate observation. The value of a remedy, according to the ultra-chemists, is to be estimated by chemical laws, and not by its effects on morbid actions or on the constitution of a patient. Practitioners are to give up all compositions which are not strictly chemical, and by commencing the remedial treatment of

disease *de novo*, on chemical principle, subject their patients to a series of experiments, which if the result be unfortunate, the friends of the patient may have the satisfaction of knowing that he died scientifically, or chemically! a piece of information which will no doubt reconcile them to the event!! The incompatible chemical mania at this time prevails so much throughout this country, among the inexperienced, that there is scarcely an apothecary's or druggist's shop without a chart of incompatibles, by which the compounders form an opinion of the value of the prescriptions which are sent to their shops, and of the professional abilities of the writers; and if ingredients are not compatibles, the physician is pronounced an *ignoramus*, or a practitioner of the *old* school. The late Dr. Fordyce, and the late Dr. Higgins, who were very excellent chemists, condemned the attempts of some of their cotemporaries to simplify the formulæ of the pharmacopœia, and render prescriptions of authors more chemically scientific; and we have heard the former say that he had found a combination of anodynes, as henbane, hemlock, and aconite, allay irritation and quiet morbid action after they had failed, when separately administered, to produce any beneficial effect.

The author of the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, advises his readers to estimate a topical remedy by its effects, which are more evident when administered internally, than by any chemical characters; because, although the constituents may be disturbed, new combinations are formed, of the remedial or therapeutical value of which, mere chemists cannot be competent judges; for instance, according to the incompatiblists, the lotion of the oxymurate of quicksilver with lime is unscientific, because the oxymuriate is decomposed by the lime; but what says Experience?

This lotion I have found to produce effects in *numerous* cases of phagedænic ulcers, which no other preparation of mercury, with or without lime, was capable of doing. Are the members of the profession to give up the experience of ages,—the formula of the antients, corrected by the observations of the moderns; men too of sober judgment, for the purpose of supporting a scientific character?" When the incompatiblists can satisfactorily explain the phenomena of diseases, the *modus operandi* of medicine, the process of digestion or assimilation, the irritability of muscles, and various functions of the animal machine on chemical principles, and can point out the decompositions or new combinations of compatibles, or incompatibles in the grand digester of the living body, termed the stomach; then, and not till then, will we attend to their *chemical* rules for prescribing medicines; and in giving an opinion of the *value* of a remedy, we shall be influenced only by its operations on the system, or its effects on disease.

According to the analysis of vegetable products, even the articles as presented to us by nature, are compounds of incompatibles, and even the constituents are disturbed by infusion, either in cold or warm water. The peruvian bark, the poppy, and every other vegetable, afford on analysis, products which Messrs. Phillips and Thompson deem incompatibles: but whether many of the articles which are

obtained, are educts or products, the most scientific chemists are at a loss to determine. If the latter, can they say what further new ones may be produced, when subjected to the action of the gastric juice in the stomach? A knowledge of chemistry is unquestionably necessary to form a safe and judicious practitioner, in order to enable him to proceed scientifically in decomposing poisons taken into the stomach, and to avoid additions to potent articles, which might render them inert, or increase the activity of simple ones, so as to render them poisonous; but we are not to abandon a composition of established efficacy, because the ingredients are what Mr. Phillips or Mr. Thompson terms iucompatibles. Notwithstanding Mr. Phillip's attempt to direct medical practitioners to prescribe scientifically, he represents the articles of the *materia medica* to possess as many virtues or medicinal properties as the most bigoted or superstitious antient writers. The carbonate of ammonia, he says, is "*stimulating, antispasmodic, diaphoretic, antacid, and emetic*" *!!!* So much for a chemist's idea of the medicinal virtues of a chemical article. Does it allay spasms, produce perspiration or vomit by any other property than by *stimulating* the stomach? The dose, he says, is from *five* to *thirty* grains. The late Mr. Royston published a case, in which twenty grains occasioned such an extrication of gas in the stomach and intestines, as to destroy life.

Suppose a medical student were to administer thirty grains of the subcarbonate of ammonia, as an emetic or diaphoretic, as directed by Mr. Phillips, in a case of inflammatory fever or inflammation of the lungs, would it not so far aggravate the disease as to endanger life?

In the list of incompatibles, he says *he believes* that calomel, unless heat be applied, is not decomposed by carbonate of armmonia! If he had any doubt of it, why did he not ascertain the fact? If calomel be not decomposed by the subcarbonate of ammonia without heat, how can he account for the alteration in the colour, which takes places on adding the liquor of ammonia to the calomel? Is it not by neutralizing the chlorlde?

To us it appears most strange, that a chemist of nice observant powers, who has been engaged twenty years in chemical pursuits, and in compounding medicines, should not be able to speak positively as to the effect of subcarbonate of ammonia on calomel, a mixture which he has probably made a hundred times.

The arsenical solution, he says, is a *powerful* tonic. Because it has been successfully administered in supposed cases of debility, especially intermittent fever, after the Peruvian bark had failed, some practitioners, as Dr. Paris, &c. have termed it a tonic; but if it cured an intermittent by a tonic effect, how are we to account for the debility of the stomach, and of the whole system, which takes place during its use? Should we not rather attribute its effects, in cases of intermittents, to some peculiar influence on the system which counteracts that of marsh miasma? On the supposed tonic powers of arsenic, the author of the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia makes the following observations:—

"So far from manifesting any effect as a *tonic*, it uniformly increases the symptoms of debility, by destroying appetite, and otherwise disordering the stomach. Probably its beneficial effects in

ague, is to be ascribed to its slight *poisonous* action on the stomach, which rouses the power of the *vix medicatrix naturæ*; or in other words, the power of resisting its baneful influence, which the system unquestionably possesses. By rousing this power, many diseases may be cured; but when it cannot be brought forward, in consequence of general debility, the remedy will prove hurtful. The operation of the vegetable poisons, in cases of hooping cough and other spasmodic diseases, may be ascribed to this effect."

The nitrate of silver, Mr. Phillips says, is, when administered internally, a tonic and antispasmodic. Epilepsy, by some, is considered a disease of debility; and the nitrate of silver having been successfully exhibited in a few cases of the disease, has been termed a tonic and antispasmodic. It is however always, in a short time, followed by symptoms of debility of the stomach, and it very frequently produces violent spasms in that organ or in the intestines: how then can it be said to be a tonic and an antispasmodic? It is probable that its effects, in cases of epilepsy, are produced by some peculiar poisonous action on the nervous system, or that the peculiar irritation it excites in the stomach occasions a diversion in favour of the morbid condition or local affection of the brain, on which the epileptic fits were dependent.

The nitrate of silver, says Mr. Phillips, is the most powerful of all escharotics; and so say Mr. Bell, and other surgeons. The *fused potass*, when applied to the surface of the body, whether the part be healthy or unhealthy, acts much more rapidly and deeply than the nitrate of silver, and we therefore conceive it is a more powerful escharotic.

Burnt sponge, Mr. Phillips represents to be a *tonic*, *deobstruent* and *antacid*; and he observes, "it has been asserted that it contains *iodine*, and that its efficacy is owing to it." What, has not this great chemical luminary of the east yet ascertained that it really affords iodine? Probably he doubts whether *iodine* be an educt or a product. In his remarks on the antimonial powder, he says that he has analysed the celebrated fever powders of the late Dr. James, and found it to consist of phosphate of lime, 44 parts, and peroxide of antimony, 56 ditto. These proportions agree almost exactly with the results obtained by Dr. Pearson, when he analysed this nostrum by desire of the College of Physicians. The trials that have lately been made with this powder by Dr. Duncan, Dr. Elliotson, Dr. Latham, Mr. Brande, and other practitioners, most satisfactorily prove that it is as inert as the powder of rotten wood!!! The once celebrated Dr. James's fever powders, which for some time was a very favourite febrifuge medicine with many of the *learned* Fellows of the College of Physicians, graduates of the *first* medical schools in the world, Oxford and Cambridge, who ordered it in doses of one grain and a quarter, contains no more virtue than powder of post!!! its *supposed* salutary effects were entirely produced through the medium of the minds of the patients. We lately met with a remarkable instance of a tumbler of spring water acting as an aperient, which was taken by mistake for the Cheltenham water; and this effect it continued to produce till the patient, a lady aged 56, discovered the mistake.

(To be continued.)

HENBANE.

Dr. M. Fouquier, of the Hospital of la Charité, after giving the Henbane an extensive trial, observes, "Until it shall be held absolutely necessary to procure a patient a rending headache, with vertigo, fantastic reveries, burning thirst, loss of sight, perversion of the taste, insuperable disgust for every sort of food or drink, without a single wink of sleep, this remedy must continue utterly useless; and in the mean time, it should be expunged from every Pharmacopœia."

He denies that it ever acts decidédly as an opiate. In opposition to his observations, Dr. Duncan, jun. remarks, "for a long time it has been freely used in the Edinburgh Infirmary for inducing sleep;" and that, as far as he has observed, it is as effectual as opium itself, and never produces the effects observed at La Charité. The experiments of Fouquier tend to shew, that the extract prepared from the *expressed* juice, and the extract procured by macerating the dried plant in water at 100° Fahr., and evaporating the product by the water bath, are nearly or absolutely inert. But M. Planche prepared for him an alcoholic extract of great power, by maceration in diluted alcohol at 82°. Of this extract he seems to have given from ten to thirty grains for a dose; and always observed it produce the disagreeable symptoms we have mentioned. The form under which it is used in Edinburgh is that of tincture, very similar to that from which Planche prepared his extract. Does the alcohol, observes Dr. Duncan, jun., qualify its properties, and increase its opiate quality?

SINOUS ULCERS.

On going over the new Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, we were much pleased with a variety of formulæ for injecting sinous ulcers, because we are satisfied that the topical treatment of sinuses by injections, or other medicaments, has been of late years much neglected by the lecturers on surgery in this country, and by the surgeons of the hospitals of London; the consequence of which is, the knife is frequently employed in cases of sinuses, the situations of which render the operation very hazardous. About three years since, we visited a patient, a Mr. Russel, of Ledbury, who had for some mouths suffered great distress from no less than four sinuses communicating with the bladder. On making an effort to evacuate the bladder, the urine escaped from a sinus, in the lower part of the rectum, in the left groin, in the perinæum and in the scrotum. From the account the patient gave of the origin, &c. of his distressing afflictions, it appeared that a large abscess had formed in the cellular substance between the rectum and bladder, and that it broke into the bladder and lower part of the rectum, and that the matter had afterwards insinuated itself through the cellular substance into the perinæum, scrotum, and left groin, occasioning fresh suppurations in those places. The patient's sister told us that he had been for some weeks under the care of Mr. Carden, a surgeon, at Worcester; that since he had returned to Ledbury, Mr. Carden had occasionally visited him; that he had regularly corresponded with

him, and that Mr. C. had not, for some weeks, entertained the most distant idea of his recovery. She shewed us Mr. Carden's prescriptions, the professed object of which was to procure sleep, and diminish his sufferings; and in his letter, the surgeon particularly directed his attention to a future state, advising him to place confidence in his Saviour, in whose bosom he hoped to meet him hereafter. The clergyman of the parish, who takes great pleasure in visiting the sick, and in administering the comforts of religion and relieving their wants, had that day administered the sacrament to him. His mind was perfectly tranquil, but his body was in a feverish state, and greatly emaciated. We ordered a dose of a tonic mixture, (infusion of bark with the dilute sulphuric acid,) to be administered three times a day, and directed a surgeon of the place to make use of the injection of sulphate of copper, of the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, (p. 89,) once or twice a day. After pursuing this treatment three days, the patient was evidently much better, his appetite being improved, the perspirations abated, and the irritation about the region of the bladder much diminished. The plan was in consequence continued, and on visiting the parish about eight months afterwards, we had the pleasure of seeing him engaged in his business. He had then only one sinus, which after using a hollow elastic bougie a few times, closed. The patient has since married, and when we visited Ledbury a fortnight ago, we had the great satisfaction of hearing that he enjoyed perfectly good health. The tranquillizing effect of hope on the mind, is highly favourable to the recovery of health in all cases of disease; quieting the nervous system in cases of fever, and supporting it when the vital powers are reduced. It is true it often tells too flattering a tale, by painting the image as it wishes; but even in such case, its beneficial influence on the body in cases of diseases even of an opposite nature, has been evinced in numberless instances, and in real hopeless cases has produced a serenity of thought, which has evidently prolonged existence. It is that passion or affection of the mind which is the last to leave us, continuing to linger with the afflicted, till the mental powers give way, and to the christian in the most desperate cases, to animate the scene beyond the grave. Hence it conveys more than any passion of the mind, an idea of

> "The divinity that stirs within us,
> And points out immortality to man."

Hail, thou first best feelings of our nature! may thy cordial influence, at a time when we most stand in need of it, never be counteracted or even diminished by the officious interference of fanatics, or those wretches who for the sake of lucre make a tool of religion.

This case shows the necessity of topical treatment of sinuses, in conjunction with internal remedies, and of the impropriety of giving a decisive opinion of the result of a disease, even when the symptoms are most discouraging; to say nothing of depriving an invalid of the consolation of hope. It is to give a patient, afflicted with a serious malady, some intimation of his danger, so that he may prepare for the worst; but we think no practitioner is justified in depriving him of a hope of recovery; because we often meet with cases, which

terminate favourably after appearing by a combination of unfavourable symptoms to be hopeless; and ignorant indeed must that man be of the history of medicine and the influence of the mind on the body, who is not aware, that death has frequently followed an intimation of danger, and that the recovery of a nervous patient in many diseases often depends on keeping up a flattering prospect of a recovery. The balm of hope is indeed, in many cases, of much greater consequence than any medical balsam. We admire genuine Christianity (than which there is nothing more beautifully simple) as much as any men; but we look more to the charitable acts of a man, than to his external exhibitions of sanctity for the sincerity of his professions.

In many cases of recent fistula ani et perinæi, we have found the same injection, with attention to the stomach and bowels, to effect a cure in a few weeks; some of which had been condemned to the knife.

MORPHINE.

Perhaps few circumstances have tended more to diminish the confidence of the public in regular medicine, or operated more in favour of the trade of nostrums, than the diversity of opinion which exists among members of the profession, of experience, relative to the virtues of many articles of the materia medica. A slight difference of opinion respecting the anodyne property of the article obtained by decomposing opium, termed by the French chemists, *morphine*, exists between Dr. Magendie and other eminent physicians of France, Germany and England, and Mr. Battley, a pharmaceutical chemist of London; the former asserting he has found three grains of morphine, introduced into the stomach, capable of destroying the life of a dog, and the latter asserting that as many drachms of it administered to a dog, produced no evident effect; and that the experiments he has made with it, have satisfied him that it contains little, *if any*, anodyne property!! In the experiments of Magendie, half a grain of morphine produced sound sleep; and in those of Mr. Battley, upwards of two hundred grains produced no effect whatever!!!

It appears, by Mr. Battley's account of his analysis of opium, that he obtained morphine from even the dregs of the foreign opium, nay, even from the dregs of that which remained after making the tincture which pharmaceutical chemists have been so foolish as to consider impurities; not the product of the poppy, but accidentally or intentionally mixed with it. As Mr. Battley has promised to publish a further account of *his* analytical experiments, with *chemical* observations on opium, we shall postpone our remarks on them till his communication to the profession is concluded. Instead of being *at home* in his laboratory, we suspect he will soon find himself in a labyrinth, from which he will require much ingenuity of argument or sophistry to get out with a fair chemical character. All we can say is, we heartily wish him "a good deliverance." The following letter, on the account of Mr. Battley's *chemical* examination of opium, coming from a most able philosophical and pharmaceutical chemist of London, we consider it our duty to give a place in our journal.

SIRS,—Observing in a late number of a periodical work the ideas of Mr. R. Battley on "the components of opium," I take the liberty of making a few remarks on the nature and proceedings of this *scientific* chemist, as respects his paper before me. In the first place I beg leave to state that Mr. Battley's *morphium* is a widely different substance from the English morphi*a* or the French morphi*ne*.—Perhaps it had better be introduced into the list of *new* metals, as the signification of the termination in *um* implies; and if it be a metal, I shall feel obliged by a further description of its properties, malleability, specific gravity, &c. &c. He may introduce it to the philosophical world under the name of *Hum*, which appears applicable to its nature, &c.

The method of operating pursued by the before-mentioned gentleman, is certainly very correct; first acting on the substance with a weak menstruum, and afterwards with a stronger; and his analysis of the residuum, or refuse, which actually is a *refuse*, certainly does him credit; but he in this case stands in a very awkward predicament, having little or no morphia left to act upon. He should have remembered, that he previously digested the opium in distilled water, which took up 23 pounds; and in this, Sirs, let me tell you, he took up nearly the whole of the morphia, and would have removed every *atom*, provided he had well washed his *dregs!*

Mr. Battley is perhaps also not aware, that although morphia is insoluble, or nearly so, in water, the salt which exists in opium, viz. the *meconiate of morphia*, is *entirely* so, provided a sufficient quantity is used; and that this salt is not so easily or profitably obtained as he seems to think. His morphium could be very well manufactured, on the large scale, at 20 per cent. if it were of any use, while a pure article, or true morphia, is worth in France (where spirit is cheap) £7 per ounce, and opium at 38*s*. per lb.

Of the real method of preparing morphia I have nothing here to say; but if Mr. Battley has ever seen the magnesia process, he perhaps may still be able to turn his aqueous solution to some account, if it is not already used for his sedative liquor of opium.

Having but little time on my hands, I shall skip over his analysis to his tincture bottoms, and under this head, shall only say that the results here obtained ought to have convinced him, that the substance was very widely different from pure morphia, and that he should have well considered before he had the hardihood to attempt to overthrow the labours of the practical chemist, which have for a long time been in print, and the effects of whose active principles of vegetable substances on the animal economy, have been for a long time known, felt, and understood by many scientific practitioners of England and France. In conclusion, I beg to observe, that the above has not been written with any hostile feelings towards Mr. Battley, but through a wish that no *false* idea may go abroad with respect to the active principle of laudanum, which does contain morphia, and to which and the meconic acid, also possessed of sedative properties, its only virtue is attributed, and more especially to guard any person from incautiously taking pure morphia, as the result would be fatal. I am, Sirs, your obedient Servant,

London, June 14th, 1824. A PRACTICAL CHEMIST.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

RHEUMATISM, &c.

Doctor Balfour of Edinburgh, has lately published several cases to illustrate the efficacy of compression and percussion in Rheumatism, scrofulous affection of the joints and spine, chronic pains in scrofulous subjects, diminution of muscular power in the extremities from gouty irritation, &c. &c.

"Though the practice rests on the *immoveable* foundation of *indubitable* experience, which," says the doctor, "*every* man of *common* sense regards as paramount to *all* theory and *all* reasoning, yet I will not concede that the mode of operation of compression and percussion in the complaints (enumerated above) is either inexplicable or unintelligible." In the doctor's opinion, "its beneficial effects are equally obvious with that of drawing of a tooth in curing the tooth-ache,—with that of the local abstraction of blood in effecting the resolution of local inflammation, and infinitely more explicable and intelligible than the mode of operation of mercury in the cure of a certain disease, of that of the Peruvian bark in intermittent fever, &c. &c. The doctor having in a former publication explained, as he supposes, the *principles* on which compression and percussion prove efficacious remedies in rheumatism and the other diseases in which he has employed them, he now confines himself to a statement of facts, which he deems "extraordinary and incontrovertible."!! Other practitioners not having witnessed similar results from his pommeling system, the doctor observes, "it would have been a miracle if they had; but," says he, "the objection, while it proclaims the *originality* of the practice, has really no foundation whatever." In the first place, the doctor applies the remedy with "his *own* hands, leisurely and perseveringly," and other practitioners satisfy themselves with *prescribing* it, without *touching* any thing besides the fee, and they persuade themselves that they have done justice to *his* practice, and *their* duty to their patients!! "A knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pathology," he says, "is as necessary to the *efficacious* application of compression and percussion, as in any other mode of treatment; and a medical man would with the same propriety recommend a delirious patient to take a remedy, as he would *prescribe* compression and percussion in the cases he has detailed. What *respect* then," says the doctor, "is due to the *candour* of those who have so little *respect* for themselves as to deny the efficacy of a practice of which they never made a fair trial?" In the second place, the doctor presumes it will be admitted, that any individual practitioner is likely to excel in the treatment of a disease, to which he has long paid particular attention and in which his experience is extensive. "Now," observes the doctor, "*I originated and introduced* the practice of compression and percussion in the cure of rheumatism and complaints allied to it; I have devoted a great share of my attention to it for *ten* years, with increasing success; and I have now brought it to a degree of perfection almost incredible to those who are not acquainted with the history of the cases which have been cured by it after *every other method* had been tried in *vain*."! This, says the doctor, is no

vain boast or arrogant assertion, for the *thing* can be proved by *evidence* the most ample and unexceptionable. The circumstance of "ladies and gentlemen going to the doctor from *every* county in Scotland, England, and Ireland, to consult him, is, in the doctor's opinion, decisive of the superior efficacy of his system; for, says he, were they not *previously* assured of the *astonishing* success of his mode of treatment, they would not undertake such long journeys. Another convincing proof is, that many of the poor of Edinburgh apply to him after having attended the Royal Infirmary and Dispensaries of that city." Pray, most observant doctor, how many of the disappointed patients of the London Hospitals and Dispensaries have recourse to quacks, after being tired of attending at those charities? Besides removing pain, swelling and rigidity of the joints, muscles and other parts, the doctor is persuaded that compression and percussion exert a powerful salutary influence on the *natural*, *vital*, and *animal* functions of the body,(!!) and therefore, says he, they promote general health in a *remarkable* degree. That such is the case, the doctor is satisfied from the following considerations:

"When the pulse is preternaturally frequent, as in acute rheumatism, the operation of compression and percussion diminishes its frequency, in a very palpable degree. I have brought it down six, ten, and fourteen strokes in a minute.

"When the pulse is hard, small, and wiry, or irregular, compression and percussion render it soft, full, and regular.

"On the brain and nerves, compression and percussion produce the most powerful effects. Such, indeed, is the efficacy of percussion in promoting an equal distribution of the nervous power, that I am strongly inclined to believe it would be found a powerful remedy in tetanus. That it would be an efficient auxiliary to the other means employed in suspended animation, there cannot be a doubt. Nothing could so readily excite the action of the brain and nerves,—nothing could so immediately and powerfully *impart* motion to the blood. (!)

"On the digestive organs, compression and percussion exert a powerful and salutary influence. I have often been told by my patients, without their being questioned on the subject, that they felt an unusual craving for food *immediately* after an operation. One lady told me she was obliged to take a lunch every day on which she had an operation. Another declared she was *compelled* to eat immediately after an operation. A late learned lord, whose life, according to his own spontaneous acknowledgments, was prolonged for many months by the operation in question, after Dr. Gregory ceased to prescribe for him, ate voraciously every day after the operation; whereas, he was frequently overpowered with sickness previous to its application.

"Intestinal excretion is greatly promoted by the application of compression and percussion to the trunk of the body, but particularly the abdomen. An elderly gentleman felt himself unwell, but could give no other account than that his bowels, which were irregular, would not answer to medicine, and that his feelings were uneasy. He consulted various practitioners of the highest respectability,

successively, without benefit. Compression and percussion, particularly to the abdomen, were at last resorted to, with perfect success: his bowels became regular without the aid of medicine, and his uneasy sensations disappeared.

"In patients who have long laboured under rheumatism or scrofulous affections of the joints, and consequently have been deprived of that exercise in the open air which is necessary to perfect health, I have often observed the skin to have a morbid appearance, and to be dry, rough, and rigid. These effects are owing to deficiency of local nourishment. But compression and percussion, by promoting circulation in the parts, produce all the good effects of voluntary motion or exercise. The limb which was wasted, recovers flesh; the skin acquires a healthy appearance, and becomes smooth and flexible."

From the doctor's list of cases we have selected the following, on account of affording the strongest evidence of the efficacy of *his original* mode of treatment. The first case is important, inasmuch as it proves the doctor is not afraid to give the remedy a trial on his own person, even in a case of an inflammatory nature; and in this respect the doctor's claim to originality, we presume no person acquainted with the practice of medicine will dispute. A quack never takes his own medicine, and it has been said that a system-monger never follows his own system.

"On the evening of the 26th December, 1821, I was seized all at once, about ten o'clock, with a *shivering* fit. I *instantly* had percussion applied over the shoulders, true ribs, and spine, which immediately checked the *febrile* paroxysm. The night was wet, and the streets very dirty, and I had been visiting from seven till ten. For some days previously I felt pains shooting through my *whole* body, and the day before had had a sort of diarrhœa. On going to bed, I had another fit of shivering, and a renewal of the diarrhœa, which continued through the whole night. In the morning I experienced most oppressive head-ache; my pulse was about a hundred, and the motion of the heart so strong that I felt not only my body, but the bed, shaken by every stroke. *I sent for a medical friend, who prescribed bleeding in the arm, and the application of a dozen of leeches to the temples. I absolutely* felt as if my head was about to separate in the direction of the coronal suture. I thought my friend's advice very rational, but had a strong desire to try emetic tartar previously, *thinking I could do no less than treat myself as I treated others!!!* Accordingly, I took sixty drops of antimonial wine in some boiled rice and milk, with sensible relief to the head-ache; and had percussion sedulously applied to the inferior extremities, where I experienced violent shooting pains. I repeated the emetic tartar several times, in smaller doses, in the course of the day, with increased good effects, both as to the head-ache and the force of the heart. At bed-time, having still some remains of head-ache, I took sixty drops of antimonial wine, as in the morning. In about half an hour I became sick, and disposed to vomit. This sensation lasted a moment only, but recurred twice afterwards at short intervals, and with a short duration. I did

not vomit, but the dejections, which had become less frequent, were renewed. Instead of being aqueous, however, they were now fæcal, of greater consistence, and occurred only twice. Within an hour from taking the last dose of the medicine, I was as free from complaint as ever I was in my life. The oppression I had laboured under was entirely removed, my spirits became buoyant, my strength returned, the diarrhœa left me, and I slept soundly the whole night. Next day I went abroad, and visited my patients as usual. I had a severe attack of rheumatism again in my left knee, but removed it entirely in the course of the day by repeated applications of percussion.

"A tradesman's wife, aged thirty, consulted me, about the middle of December, 1821, for rheumatism, with which she had been afflicted for two years, without intermission. The whole of the right side of the neck and shoulder were most excruciatingly pained; so much so that at first she could scarcely suffer them to be touched, and therefore concluded they were incurable. It was in consequence, indeed, of her husband witnessing the effects of my operations on a patient that she was induced to apply to me. The left elbow-joint was also much pained, and *permanently* bent; both wrists were painful and enlarged; and several of her fingers were also so painful and swollen at the joints, as to be incapable of flexion and extension. On the whole the patient was rendered unfit for the performance of her domestic occupations, except very imperfectly and with torture; circumstances certainly, to a woman in her situation, sufficiently distressing.

"This woman called on me only five times altogether, and these visits were all made in the course of a fortnight. To her astonishment, the pain in the neck and shoulder, which she was persuaded could never be removed, was scarcely felt at the fourth operation. The elbow-joint was considerably more extended, and less pained; the swelling and pain of the wrists were diminished, and she could shut her hands with facility and firmness. She complained, however, that, though her wrists and fingers were in a great measure freed from pain, yet it returned when she plunged her hands into cold and warm water alternately, which she was often obliged to do; but I taught her, successfully, to repel it by percussion. In the end she informed me she could do this at pleasure. At her fifth visit, her shoulder and neck were entirely free from pain. I also succeeded in effecting perfect flexion and extension of the elbow-joint, almost without occasioning any pain; and, therefore, now considered the cure of this interesting case complete.

"A lady, aged forty-nine, relict of a physician, consulted me, on the 16th February, 1822, for rheumatism, of uncommon severity, in the middle of the left shoulder-blade, all round the shoulder-joint, and at the elbow. She had complained for many months, and had, in vain, tried all the remedies that could be thought of, till her patience was entirely exhausted, and all hope of her condition ever being ameliorated was extinguished. But what most annoyed the patient was the loss of motion in the shoulder-joint; her arm hung almost useless by her side; she could bring her hand forward a little,

but that was owing to the motion of the shoulder-blade. She could not raise up her arm or put it backwards, because the shoulder-joint was as immovable as if anchylosed. Any motion, indeed, of which the arm was susceptible, either actively or passively, was solely on the shoulder-blade; for, after the most minute and patient examination, I could not tell whether anchylosis had taken place or not: all I could ascertain was, that there was no perceptible motion in the joint. In these circumstances, I could give no encouragement to my patient to expect a cure; at the same time I was anxious to make a trial, for ten days or so, of my mode of treating such cases, assuring her that, if no good was done, she should suffer no injury. She consented at once, desiring me to conduct myself according to my own judgment, without regarding her feelings, as she was determined to recover the use of her arm by all possible means.

"A single point about the middle of the scapula, and another immediately below the elbow-joint, radial side of the arm, were so painful as scarcely to suffer being touched; the whole of the deltoid muscle, from origin to insertion, was also very tender; but, being compressible, these parts were quickly relieved from pain. To restore the motion of the joint was the difficulty, and for that purpose percussion alone was available. I put the joint as much upon the stretch as the patient's feelings would permit; then, fixing the scapula, I applied percussion above, behind, or in front of the joint, according to the position in which the arm was held. This process I alternated with attempts at rotation of the bone of the upper-arm, by bending the fore-arm, and converting it into a lever; which enabled me to apply percussion in a rotatory direction, with great effect. The operations were continued, with short intervals, for an hour every day. At the end of the first ten days, I could not say there was the slightest effect produced, except on the soft parts: in a fortnight, however, from the commencement of the operations, motion of the joint was palpable and unequivocal. Of this I satisfied the patient and all her family, to their great joy. Nothing was now wanting to a complete cure but perseverance in the mode of treatment I had begun: I therefore continued the operations every day for a fortnight longer, and every other day for two weeks more; when motion of the joint was completely restored, and has remained perfect ever since."

As to the doctor's claim to the originality of curing rheumatism, gout, enlargement of joints, &c. by percussion and compression, we noticed the practice in the Medical Guide about twenty years ago, as having been successfully adopted in those cases by Admiral Henry, who had then employed it on himself and others about fifteen or twenty years, when we suppose Dr. Balfour had not taken leave of his rocking machine, vulgarly termed a cradle. The practice was also noticed as originating with Admiral Henry about fifteen years ago, in the Medical Spectator; and to it or the Medical Guide we have good reason for believing the doctor is indebted for his knowledge of the practice. Admiral Henry is at this time upwards of ninety years of age, and in consequence of adopting the practice on himself "with his own hands," he not only enjoys good health,

but a wonderful degree of muscular power; and by having occasional recourse to it, he flatters himself that he will enjoy life for a century or two longer. The account we gave of the Admiral's mode of curing rheumatism and gout, in one of our early numbers, induced Sir John Sinclair to pay the Admiral a visit, for the purpose of obtaining every particular respecting the modes of employing percussion and compression; and the worthy Baronet afterwards published a pamphlet on the subject, with a representation of the instruments the Admiral was in the habit of using*. To prove that the practice originated with Dr. Balfour, it is incumbent on him to shew in what respect his mode of treatment differs from that employed by Admiral Henry twenty years before the learned doctor was capable of using "his own hands," or before "his whole body" had received "all the advantages" of the "rocking system" of the nursery, which "on the brain and stomach," Mother Paris tells us, has a "wonderful effect, composing the former and disturbing the latter." We agree with Dr. Balfour, that in order to employ "percussion and compression" efficaciously, a "knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pathology, is necessary," and from the doctor's cases and remarks, a more practical knowledge of surgery or surgical pathology than the doctor possesses; for in cases of enlargement or stiffness of the shoulder, knee or hip-joint, arising from inflammation of the capsular ligament, or from caries of the end of a bone, or inflammation of the cartilaginous extremity of a bone or socket, percussion and compression might be productive of a degree of mischief that would probably endanger the life of the patient.

We should have been more pleased with the doctor's "considerations," had they been more free from the sweeping conclusions which in the mind of a man of experience and correct observation, distinguish scientific from empirical practice. In the doctor's opinion, his system is as capable of effecting as wonderful cures as the "*justly* celebrated Balm of Gilead," of that *celebrated* physician Dr. Solomon, and that too, in diseases which are opposite in their nature.—The assertion that percussion and compression applied to the extremities are capable of invigorating the digestive organs, and thereby promoting digestion, is in direct opposition to the doctrines of the justly celebrated chylopoietic Surgeon of London, who asserts that even in a case of ulceration of the extremity of a toe, arising from morbid growth of a nail from pressure of a shoe, it is ridiculous to adopt any *local* treatment, for the very *sound* reason, that every part of the body is dependant on the stomach for health, and consequently that no part can continue in a state of disease after the digestive organs are put in a state of health.

The result of Dr. Balfour's pommeling practice seems to prove that the functions of the digestive organs *sometimes* depend on the condition of the extremities, and that local affections of remote parts are capable of disordering the stomach; and in this opinion we certainly agree with the doctor.

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* Sold by Callow and Wilson, London.

Since we commenced this article on "percussion and compression," a gentleman informed us that he consulted the Chylopoietic Surgeon on a case of ulceration of the toe, which had confined him to the house many days. The surgeon refused to examine the diseased part, contending that whatever its appearance might be, it depended entirely on the state of his stomach, liver, and intestines. The gentleman asked him, in what state his stomach, &c. could possibly be, to produce such a disease in a part so distant from them, when his digestion was good and his bowels regular? The Surgeon replied, in his usual *polite* manner, "Now, Sir, are you such a fool as to suppose I can get into your stomach to ascertain what is the matter with it?" The gentleman as peremptorily answered,—"Why, Sir, if that were necessary, I assure you I had rather have a *bear* in it than yourself." He then threw the fee on his table, and requested him to do him the favour of taking the blue pill himself, to allay the irritability of his system, and to attempt to civilize his mind through the medium of his digestive organs.

Of the pommeling sytsem of Admiral Henry or Dr. Balfour, in cases of gout, rheumatism, and many affections of the joints, we entertain a very high opinion; but we are satisfied that unless attention be paid to the state of the stomach, intestines, and sanguiferous system, its beneficial effects will be of short duration; we are however convinced, that attention to the digestive organs, without local management, will in those cases prove equally inefficacious.

DROPSY.

By a recent report of medical cases, at Fort Pitt, by Dr. Davy, Fellow of the Royal Society, it appears that foxglove *(digitalis purpurea)* has been administered to an extent which the practitioner, who has witnessed the violent effects of two grains of the powdered leaves on the stomach and bowels, and the debilitating effects on the muscular system, will not readily credit.

"In a case of dropsy of the abdomen *(ascites)*, which is still in the hospital, but convalescent," the doctor says, "a very remarkable recovery has taken place. The patient was first afflicted with the disease during his residence in India, where it followed an attack of dysentery and ague. During the last twelve months he had been tapped nine times. He is now in pretty good health; the abdomen being reduced to its natural size and without fluctuation. This very favourable change the doctor attributes to the medicine he prescribed (foxglove in a bitter infusion, with a small proportion of sub-carbonate of soda, and a small quantity of blue pill.) The doctor commenced the use of foxglove in the dose of five grains of the powdered leaves, which he gradually increased till he arrived to the extent of 114 grains daily, *i. e.* thirty-eight grains three times a day. "It is," says the doctor, "worthy of remark, that this medicine operated and produced the good effect almost insensibly. When at its full dose, the pulse was rather quicker than natural. It never disordered the head or stomach, nor increased the secretion of urine!

It may be supposed (says the doctor) that the powder was not fresh or good; this however he will not admit, for in some cases of disease of the lungs in which it was given, it produced the common effects of the article in the usual dose."

A bad case of dropsy of the extremities (anasarca) was completely cured by the powdered leaves of foxglove, gradually increased to the quantity of 100 grains daily. It is remarkable whilst the patient was taking this medicine, his pulse was not apparently affected, but on the day after it was discontinued the pulse suddenly fell from seventy-five (its natural standard) to forty-six, and became irregular. The following day it rose to its natural state.

The dropsy of the abdomen, which was of three years standing, was attended with cough, pain in the right side of the chest and in the region of the liver, which gave way to an alterative course of the blue pill with extract of hemlock, the dose of the former of which was increased gradually till it arrived to one drachm daily. The bitter infusion was also employed as a vehicle for the anodyne alterative pills. The result of the doctor's experiments with the foxglove in such immense doses, is certainly highly interesting, as shewing the opposite effects of a powerful medicine on the stomach, bowels, and sanguiferous system under different diseases. In the last stage of pulmonary consumption, when the extremities are dropsical, three grains of the powdered leaves of the foxglove have so far reduced the vital powers as to terminate life in a few hours; but in cases of dropsy, attended with great prostation of strength, the sequels of active disease, the medicine to the extent of thirty-eight grains three times a day had a tonic or stimulating effect, for after it was discontinued the pulse fell from seventy-five to forty-six. It seems also to have cured dropsy without evincing any diuretic or purgative operation. The cases of dropsy were however simple ones, *i. e.* not attended with organic disease of a viscus, and the stamina of the patients were probably good. We hope the doctor will continue to communicate to the profession, the results of his further experience with this medicine; and that he will notice the source from whence he obtained it; and be more particular in describing the cases of the patients, their modes of living, their constitutions, the causes of the malady, &c. &c. &c.

SPINAL CONSUMPTION.

The scientific and observant surgeon, Mr. Gaitskell, *Sen.* of Rotherhithe, has lately published a very interesting paper on this disease, which in this country, in consequence of neglect of the first stage, or rather mismanagement during the infantile period of life, annually proves fatal to many hundred delicate females.

The experience of Mr. Gaitskell, who has paid particular attention to this species of consumption, has convinced him that its progress may be effectually arrested, and the life of the individual preserved. He attributes its general fatal termination to the remote cause having been overlooked by the profession. Both sexes are

subject to this insiduous and distressingly lingering malady, but, according to Mr. Gaitskell's observation, in the proportion of nine females to one male; and of the former, more have suffered from it between the ages of fourteen and twenty than at any other period of life. The history, origin, causes, symptoms and treatment of the disease by Mr. Gaitskell being derived from actual observation, and the remarks being from a man of sound judgment, one of the few who is not to be intoxicated by the chemical doctrines of the incompatibalists, or whose opinions are not to be influenced by the flights of fancy of the hepatists, or the eccentricities of the chylopoietists, we shall give the whole in his own words:

"*History of the Disease.*—The foundation of this disease is often laid at the early age of four or five years, and first displays itself in a disposition of the infant to sit or stand with the head inclined forward, but so slightly, as barely to be perceived by the parents. In a few months this inclination becomes noticeable, and the child complains of a little pain in the back, is sick at the stomach, and rather costive, while the muscular flesh wastes. This is attributed to worms, and medical or empirical advice sought for;—if the former be obtained, a few doses of calomel are administered, followed by cooling purgatives and regulated diet. These, with the aid of a recumbent position (which the little patient instinctively covets), afford some temporary benefit.

"In this manner the disease will sometimes go on for years, till the stature becomes extended, when the stooping posture grows conspicuous. The relations and friends perceive it, and rebuke their child for indolence, as well as chide it for the inelegance of its shape.

"To remedy this, all sorts of mechanical contrivances are projected; such as backboards with or without collars, inclined planes, and a thousand other ingenious devices, well suited to inanimate bodies, but not to living ones.

"These mechanical means, aided by generous diet, exercise in the open air, rural amusements, and cold bathing, sometimes interrupt the progress of disease, by improving the muscular power, which balancing the spinal column on its basis, the health becomes ultimately restored. On the contrary, however, it frequently happens that the muscular power suddenly fails, the bowels become obstinately constipated, the animal heat sensibly diminished, the appetite impaired, cough comes on without expectoration, and the patient dies of atrophy.

"*Distinction.*—This species of consumption, the spinal, differs from the pulmonary in many very essential particulars.

"In phthisis pulmonalis, there are rigors, succeeded by paroxysms of heat and colliquative sweats, with a remarkably quick and contracted pulse; but, in spinal consumption, there is gradual loss of strength, particularly in the lower extremities: want of the febrile paroxysms; the skin is cool and never hot, except in the last stage, when the lungs become involved in the disease; and the bowels are obstinately costive: there is also slight cough, without expectora-

tion; whereas, in phthisis, there is teazing cough, with copious muco-purulent expectoration.

"It is equally distinguishable from tabes mesenterica; because, in this disease, there is great abdominal fulness, mucous and watery stools, with hectic fever and emaciation; whilst, in spinal consumption, instead of abdominal fulness, the bowels are flat and wasted, so much so, that the pulsations of the aorta may be felt through the abdominal parietes.

"*Origin of the Disorder.*—It appears to me, from much personal observation and inquiry, that the enthusiasm of the present age to cultivate the higher functions of the nervous system at a too early period, and before they are sufficiently developed and adapted to receive and retain the numerous impressions to which they are subjected, leads to serious mischief—Nature is deprived of the power of unfolding, in her own way, the animal structure. The effect of pressing knowledge too early in life upon a weak frame is to cultivate the mind at the expense of health, and to sacrifice the physical development and energy of the constitution to mental precocity, and premature exertion of the faculties, which either never reach their full activity, or wither the earlier for their forced growth. Such unnatural mental excitation also frequently gives rise to cerebral derangements, which, if the infant survives, often terminates in idiotism.

"The physical indolence thus induced, checking the infantile inclination to perpetual action, so necessary to bodily vigour, aided by warm rooms, impure air, and improper diet, favour the tendency in the trunk to bend forwards.

"This is farther encouraged by allowing the child to read in a low chair, with the book resting on the lap—a practice which, by pressing the bodies of the vertebra closer on each other, prevents their development; at the same time, the spinal processes being separated, and the muscles of the back kept constantly on the stretch, their power becomes lessened, and rendered incapable of supporting the spinal column on its proper centre of gravity. By these means the spinal nerves, which supply energy to the thoracic and abdominal viscera, become slightly compressed, and, consequently, their proper functions slowly but perceptibly destroyed.

"The next error is that of parents sending young females too early in life to boarding-schools, to relieve themselves of the trouble of superintending them in their more tender age, where they are deprived of the most essential requisites of health—good diet, pure air, plenty of exercise, and an unshackled mind; instead of which, they have imposed upon them great restraints, sedentary habits, impure atmosphere, scanty diet; and their minds are crammed with ill-assorted knowledge, and with much that is neither suited to their years nor to their natural dispositions. This is the reason why so large a portion of the female sex falls victims to this disease.

"Boys, though injured by the same parental indiscretion, more frequently drop into this disorder, when they have become debilitated by previous illness, and when the position of the trunk has not been attended to. Also those who are of a scrofulous habit,

which implies a weak and irritable frame, with great capacity and avidity for knowledge, when they are sent to school to be half starved, and principally fed upon books, frequently lapse into the species of ailment under consideration.

"To these sources I have traced several cases of this species of hectic, which, commencing with spinal distortion, has terminated in structural derangement of the thoracic viscera.

"*Treatment.*—It has been a rule with me for many years, when consulted by patients who have lost much flesh by absorption and imperfect reparation of the different organs, to examine the spine; and, if I find a greater projection than ordinary of the spinal processes, or particular tenderness on pressure with the fingers, or any fixed pains in supporting the body perpendicular to its base, to suspect a slow inflammation of the inter-vertebral substance, which, if not interrupted, will lead to the most alarming evils, such as suppuration, ulceration of the bones, paralysis of the lower extremities, gradual marasmus, and death.

"To stop the progress of this insidious and certainly destructive malady, I have usually recommended the application of four leeches on each side the spine close to the part affected, and when the leeches have fallen off, warm bread and water poultices, till the bleeding ceases. These I have repeated, in the adult subject, every fourth day for a fortnight, till the pain is relieved; and as a deposition of lymph is a natural consequence of every chronic inflammatory action, I have blistered the part two or three times in succession, according to symptoms. These means I have found to be aided by adopting (under certain limitations) the plan of that very excellent Surgeon, the late Mr. Bayntou, of placing the patient on a horse-hair mattress without a pillow.

"With repect to the constitutional treatment, after inquiring minutely into the secretions and excretions, I have occasionally recommended the warm bath, at 96°, for about twenty minutes, and repeated it about twice a week, in order to favour cutaneous secretion, and to fill the capillaries.

"If the stomach is affected with nausea or throwing up of ingesta, I have then administered an ipecacuan emetic, which not only removes morbid gastric secretions, but balances the circulation, and aids the biliary secretion. As the intestines are partially paralysed and difficult to be moved, I have prescribed a cathartic pill at bed-time, and purged it off the next morning with a suitable dose of infusion of senna with sulphate of magnesia. After this, it is important to obtain well-regulated hepatic secretions. I have found this to be best effected by giving five grains of quicksilver with chalk, with an equal quantity of rhubarb, every night, in a little honey; the action of this medicine is essentially aided by an injection, administered every, or every other night, composed of half a pint of warm warter, grit gruel, linseed tea, or fat mutton broth. It is surprising how much this contributes to promote the proper peristaltic motion of the intestines.

"As soon as I have found the smallest action of the mercury on the gums, I have desisted from its use, and, when the stomach and

bowels are properly regulated, prescribed from ten to thirty grains of the carbonate of iron three times a day, to restore the tone of the system.

"Under this treatment I have generally observed, in a month or two, great improvement in health; then, instead of pursuing Mr. Baynton's plan of lying without intermission, I have changed the position of the trunk, by allowing the patient to sit up two or three hours in the day.

"As soon as the returning strength permits, I have advised the patient to walk as upright as possible; and to assist this, I adopted the judicious plan of the late Mr. Wilson, who recommended the patient to carry a weight on the top of the head balanced by the hands; which, by extending the spine, brings many small muscles into play, and thus restores their lost energy.

"This weight at first should be only one pound, and by degrees increased to ten. The time of walking ought not to be more at first than ten minutes three times a day, increasing the exertion according to the augmentation of physical power.

"The effort of supporting a weight upon the head by the aid of the hands, not only relieves by straightening the spinal column, but it has many other important advantages—it promotes the free passage of blood through the liver, spleen, pancreas, and larger abdominal blood-vessels.

"When the trunk is raised and inclined a little backward, all those appendages to the digestive canal are greatly assisted in performing their respective offices; while the inferior extremity of the sternum, being farther removed from the spine, gives free space for respiration.

"With respect to diet, it must be regulated by the state of the pulse and constitutional symptoms. When a febrile state has existed, such as quick pulse, heated skin, furred tongue, and headache, I have confined my patients to barley-water, toast and water, orgeat, thin arrow-root, and roasted apples. When these symptoms have subsided, I have allowed them fish, animal jellies, eggs, and blanc mange, and gradually adapted the quantity and quality of the food to the powers of the stomach."

THE DEADLY NIGHTSHADE.

Mr. Blackett, surgeon extraordinary to His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, has communicated to Drs. Copland and Dunglison, a "brief abstract of several cases of different complaints in which he has successfully employed the saturated tincture and extract of the deadly nightshade in his private practice for some years. If the results of his experiments do not prove so satisfactory as to lead to the *general* use of this powerful remedy, they will at least prove very advantageous by shewing in what diseases it has been beneficially or otherwise administered. Although the deadly nightshade may not prove a very important remedy in many diseases, yet, as Mr. Blackett observes, it is a great point gained to know to what extent it may be administered with perfect safety, and to

notice the manner in which it affects the patient, even when it fails to be productive of any benefit to him. From the failure as well as the success of a remedy, the man of observation draws such useful inferences, as may lead to its beneficial employment in other diseases, and under circumstances in which it had been neither exhibited, nor thought capable of producing any salutary effect.

Hysteric Fits.

Mr. Blackett has given the saturated tincture of the deadly nightshade a trial in 6 cases of this disease, in 4 of which it clearly proved very beneficial, and in two as evidently injurious. In the first case, a woman of twenty-seven years of age, who had for three years been subject to most violent hysteric paroxysms about every fortnight, he directed a fourth part of the following mixture to be administered every sixth hour:

Take of the Saturated Tincture of the Deadly Nightshade, 3 drops;
Camphorated Mixture, 5 ounces;
Compound Spirit of Sulphuric Ether, 2 drachms.—Mix.

After taking this mixture regularly for five days, she experienced a recurrence of the disease, but the paroxysm was less violent. At the end of three weeks she had another very slight fit. Mr. B. now doubled the quantity of the saturated tincture, and after taking the seventh dose, its specific operation on the nervous system was evident by the dilation of the pupils. He then discontinued the remedy till this effect had gone off, which did not take place till after the expiration of six days. She then took the first mixture, and continued it for six weeks, and has since experienced no return of the malady, being a distance of seven years since she commenced the use of the remedy. Attention was paid to the stomach and bowels during the use of the mixture.

The patients, to whom it proved hurtful, were in a state of great debility, and much subject to the fluor albus. After taking a dose or two of the medicine, they were affected with cold perspirations and rigors. The medicine was discontinued, and to remove its baneful effects, Mr. Blackett administered an active aperient, and afterwards the spirit of hartshorn in water, (solution of subcarbonate of Ammonia,) at short intervals. The carbonate of iron in large doses afterwards cured the fits. From the result of these trials of the deadly nightshade, Mr. Blackett infers, that when the system is in a state of debility, or when the disease is brought on by debilitating causes, the deadly nightshade is an improper remedy.

Hooping Cough.

Of this disease, Mr. Blackett notices seven cases, in which he prescribed the deadly nightshade, in six of which it proved very beneficial, after the usual remedies had failed to afford any essential relief.

He prescribed the saturated tincture with the compound powder of gum tragacanth, dissolved in spearmint water, in the following proportions:

Take of Saturated Tincture of the Deadly Nightshade, 2 drops;
Compound Tragacanth powder, half a drachm;
Spearmint water, 4 ounces.—Mix.
A fourth part to be taken every night and morning.

After continuing this mixture two days, he increased the dose of the saturated tincture, half a drop: when it evidently manifested something like a specific action on the disease, for it rapidly abated; and in four days, the patients were free from cough. The constitutions of the patients were previously prepared for the exhibition of the medicine, by abstracting blood by cupping, from those who suffered from an overloaded state of the vessels of the brain; and the intestinal canal of all were well emptied, by an active aperient.

In one subject, a girl, aged seven years, of an indolent and scrofulous habit, the first dose of the mixture was followed by shiverings, cold perspiration, and dilatation of the pupils. Mr. Blackett had recourse to the juice of oranges and lemons, and an aperient medicine to remove these effects. She did not recover her previous state of health for six days; but although the cough did not return. Mr. Blackett observes, "in all patients of a similar constitution, I should not advise the use of the deadly nightshade."

Tumour in the Breast.

In a case of tumour of the breast of a young woman (about twenty-three years of age), occasioned by a violent blow received three years before she applied to Mr. Blackett for advice, Mr. B. has found the following plaster, applied night and morning (spread on linen) to succeed:

Take of Soap Cerate, one ounce;
Extract of Deadly Nightshade, half an ounce.

He also directed her to take one of the following pills every fourth hour:

Take of Carbonate of Iron, one drachm;
Mucilage of Gum Arabic, a sufficient quantity to form a Mass. To be divided into twelve pills.

The patient continued this plan of treatment for seven weeks; at the end of which, no vestige of the tumour was discovered.

The extract of deadly nightshade, with the soap cerate and diachylon, is a common topical application for indolent tumours at the Southwark hospitals, and is frequently prescribed by Sir Astley Cooper. The late Dr. Cheston, and Mr. Naylor of Gloucester, were in the habit of prescribing a poultice made with an infusion of the leaves of the deadly nightshade, and of the leaves of the laurel-cherry *(lauro-cerasus)* in cases of tumefied glands and irritable ulcers.—The author of the New Medico-chirurgical Pharmacopœia, has given formulæ for the cataplasm, ointment, and plaster of the deadly nightshade in cases of tumours attended with a morbid degree of irritation or inflammatory action, and recommends them in preference to any other topical application; but when the inflammatory action runs high, or when acute pain is produced by slight

pressure, he recommends the blood-vessels of the part to be unloaded by leeches. The composition introduced in the New Medico-chirurgical Pharmacopœia, under the head of Ointment of Quicksilver and Deadly Nightshade, we have found very beneficial in dispersing tumours of long standing, which had the characters of true scirrhus. The following is a copy of the receipt:

Take of strong Mercurial Ointment, one ounce;
Gum Ammoniac, six drachms;
Extract of Deadly Nightshade, four ditto;
Prussic acid, half a drachm.

Reduce the gum to a fine powder, and with the extract and a little water form a thick mass, and then add the ointment previously mixed with the acid, and unite them by means of a pestle and mortar. On this plaster the author of the work makes the following remarks:

"This composition, thickly spread on leather, is highly extolled by a surgeon of London as a topical application in cases of scirrhous and scrofulous tumours. The practitioner terms it *emplast. hydrarg. et belladonnæ*, but the author did not receive the recipe in time to insert the formula among the plasters. He has since employed it in two cases of scirrhus with the most decided advantage."

Spasmodic Stricture of the Rectum.

In one case of stricture of the rectum (termed spasmodic), Mr. Blackett has employed the following ointment with success:

Take of Ointment of Wax, half a drachm;
Extract of Deadly Nightshade, 1 scruple.
Mix well together.

The patient (a female) was about fifty-two years of age. She complained of great pain in the rectum, and an inability of voiding fæces. On examination, Mr. B. discovered "a stricture about two inches up the rectum, which would only allow of the introduction of a very small bougie." After the examination, she had a motion, which satisfied Mr. B. that the stricture was spasmodic. He ordered a lavement, which did not operate, "owing," as he supposed, "to a return of the spasm." He then applied the ointment of the extract of deadly nightshade, made according to the above receipt, to the verge of the rectum; and after two hours had elapsed she had three motions.

The next day the pain and stricture returned, and not being able to pass fæces without the use of the ointment, Mr. B. increased the quantity of the extract of deadly nightshade to half a drachm, and soon after the use of it, she had a motion. On the next day there being no evacuation, the ointment was re-applied, but without any advantage. Mr. B. then re-examined the rectum, and found it completely dilated, and the sphincter very flabby. "About an inch up the rectum," he discovered a collection of fæces, which he attributed to the *paralysing* effects of the ointment. He ordered a clyster to be administered, which was returned without bringing away any fæces. Mechanical means were then employed to unload the rectum, after which a weak solution of common salt in water was injected every four hours, and an opiate administered as bed-time. This plan

was continued about a week, when the parts recovered their tone. The patient has ever since continued well. "I blame myself much," says Mr. Blackett, "for having pushed the application so far as I did in this case, as it might have been followed by more serious consequences." The result certainly proves, as Mr. B. observes, "that the deadly nightshade is not a medicine to be trifled with, even as an external application." The proportion of extract in the ointment is, in our opinion, much too great. The author of the New Medico-chirurgical Pharmacopœia gives a mode for making an ointment of the deadly nightshade, by boiling the recent leaves in hog's-lard; and we have found it, thus prepared, very beneficial in cases of stricture of the rectum and urethra, but latterly we have preferred the oil, made by boiling the recent leaves in olive oil, on account of its being more easily and effectually applied to the seat of the disease.

Acute Rheumatism.

In one case of acute rheumatism, Mr. Blackett has found the vapour of a decoction of the extract of belladonna applied to the surface of the body beneficial, after the loss of blood, and purging and sudorific medicines. We should have preferred the leaves to the extract, because the latter (having been subjected to a boiling heat in an open vessel for many hours, to reduce the decoction to the consistence of an extract), cannot contain any property or virtue that can ascend with the vapour. The pupils of the eyes of the patient, he says, were dilated, not in consequence of the application of the vapour to the surface of the body, but of its local action on the eyes.

Spasmodic Stricture of the Urethra.

Mr. Blackett has used the deadly nightshade in several cases of this complaint with uniform benefit. In one case only he has observed any baneful effect. The case was that of a young gentleman, about twenty-two years of age, "where it so completely paralysed the urethra and sphincter of the bladder, that the urine could not be retained."—It however effectually removed the complaint for which it was prescribed.

Mr. Blackett has omitted to state in what manner he employed the deadly nightshade, in cases of spasmodic stricture of the urethra. We have been in the habit of prescribing the deadly nightshade oil, (noticed above) as a topical application, both in spasmodic and organic, or structural stricture for ten years, with the most decided advantage; and the ointment of it is highly recommended as a remedy for the former, and a powerful palliative for the latter, by the author of the "New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia." In our Treatise on the Buchu Leaves, we have particularly recommended the topical application of the deadly nightshade oil, both in spasmodic and structural stricture.

Sprain.

A woman, fifty-nine years of age, fell from "a pair of steps," and sprained her ancle. Mr. Blackett "saw her before effusion had taken place." He commenced "by moving the ancle about in every possible direction; and, although the pain, caused by this

process, produced fainting, Mr. B. continued it for a quarter of an hour, when the pain ceased." He then applied to the ancle the soap cerate, with the extract of deadly nightshade. On the the following morning, he found the patient easy; and was told that she had passed a good night. She only complained of stiffness in the joint. Mr. B. ordered her to continue the application of the ointment, and to remain in bed till the following morning. On his next visit, "he found her capable of walking about almost as well as she was capable of doing prior to the accident. In about two days more, she was perfectly recovered."

If we are to judge from the *result* of a mode of treatment, we should say, that adopted by Mr. Blackett was judicious; but we must confess, we are at a loss to conjecture on what principle, or with what view he had recourse to "moving the sprained ancle in every *possible* direction for a quarter of an hour;" and that too after the patient had fainted from the acute pain it produced. Mr. Blackett, however, adds, that "he has had several cases of sprains, in which the *same treatment* proved equally successful."

Ulcers.

In a case of sloughing ulcer from chilblain, Mr. Blackett has found the application of the following ointment very useful:

Take of Soap Cerate, six drachms;

Extract of Deadly Nightshade, 2 ditto.—To be well blended.

An hour after the first application of this ointment, the ulcer became easy; and after six or seven dressings, the surface exhibited a healthy appearance; and in the course of ten days the ulcer healed. Mr. B. adds, "I have seen Mr. Heaviside use this application with decided advantage in cases of mortification (sphacelus.)

Stings of Bees, Wasps, &c.

In cases of stings of wasps, bees, gnats, &c. Mr. Blackett has used the following lotion with success; one application in general, having been sufficient to subdue the inflammation and pain:

Take of Rose-water, 4 ounces;

Mindererus's Spirit, two ditto;

Saturated Tincture of Deadly Nightshade, 1 drachm.—Mix.

It appears to us that the proportion of the tincture in this lotion is much too small. We have known the following application, employed in cases of stings of wasps, &c. and the bites of bugs, produce instantaneous relief:

Take of Tincture of Deadly Nightshade, 2 drachms;

Spirit of Wine, two ounces.—Mix.

Difficult Parturition.

In a case of difficult labour from rigidity of the mouth of the uterus, Mr. Blackett applied half a drachm of the extract to the part. The mouth had dilated to the "size of half a crown." The *relaxing* effects of the remedy, unfortunately extended to the uterus, and its action was in consequence suspended 6 hours. The pains then came on rapidly, and the rigidity of the internal and external mouths being removed, she was delivered in the course of twenty minutes. The effect the suspension produced on the mind of Mr. Blackett was such, that he declares he "never will apply the medicine to the *mouth of the uterus* again in a case of labour."

The woman was only twenty-seven years of age; and Mr. Blackett observes, that the state of the mouth of the womb had been "met with in all her confinements." Now as she was delivered in twenty minutes after the labour pains came on, and that too, after the mouth of the uterus had only dilated to the "size of half a crown," we see no reason for Mr. Blackett coming to the resolution, of never applying the remedy to the mouth of the womb in a case of labour. We are sorry Mr. Blackett has omitted to give the *patient's* opinion of his treatment. In a case of rigidity of the *external* mouth, Mr. Blackett has applied the extract with satisfaction to himself. This case we shall give in his own words.

"B. F., a woman about thirty-eight years of age, residing in Grosvenor Street, was taken in labour with her first child. Every thing was going on right, excepting that the external parts were very rigid. I procured some of the extract of belladonna, and when the head was in the perinæum, and not before, I applied it. It proved here of great benefit, as the external orifice dilated without the least difficulty, and the patient was safely delivered."

Inflammation of the Eyes.

In cases of acute inflammation of the eyes, Mr. Blackett has prescribed the deadly nightshade with great advantage. The first case in which he gave it a trial was that of a young man, of nineteen years of age. The external membrane of the eye (Tunica conjunctiva) was inflamed. Mr. B. ordered the following lotion:

Take of Rose Water, three ounces;
Saturated Tincture of Deadly Nightshade, one drachm;
Distilled Vinegar, one drachm.—Mix.

The first application of this lotion dilated the pupils, and at the time of using it, he fell from his chair, and did not recover from its stupifying effects, in less time than a minute. The pupils remained dilated for a few minutes. In consequence of this very unexpected, and we may say most extraordinary effect, Mr. B. ordered the lotion to be discontinued; and on the following day prescribed the following:

Take of Saturated Tincture of Deadly Nightshade, one drachm;
Rose Water, seven ounces;
Distilled Vinegar, two drachms.—Mix.

This lotion the patient applied with impunity, and the disease of the eyes rapidly gave way to its action. Mr. B. has since prescribed it in cases of inflammation of the eyes, with the greatest success.

Mr. Blackett concludes his communication of the effects of the deadly nightshade, with the following sensible remarks:

"Let me caution those who attempt the use of this medicine, to commence with the administration of it—whether internally or externally—always in *small* doses or applications, and afterwards *gradually* to increase it. If the least bad effect should arise, it should be laid aside immediately. But if all goes on favourably, it ought to be increased *slowly* and *prudently*, until what is required of it be obtained; of course, there will then be not any occasion to increase it as long as the same effect continues."

The deadly nightshade (solanum lethale) is doubtless the most *direct* sedative this country produces; and in consequence of its pow-

erful effects in allaying increased excitement of the nervous system, or of quieting the nerves of a morbid part, is a very valuable addition to the materia medica. The experiments made with it by Mr. Blackett, which were certainly conducted with the caution and judgment of a man of science, who dares to give the unfavourable as well as the favourable effects, prove, as he observes, that it "is not a medicine to be trifled with, even as an external application." In inflammatory cases, or in cases of nervous excitement in robust habits, or constitutions disposed to inflammatory action, it may be employed both internally and externally with the most decided advantage; indeed, we may say, with such as no other medicine is capable of producing, but in cases of nervous excitement in debilitated or leucophlegmatic habits, it may be productive of the most serious mischief, although it may succeed in allaying local nervous excitement or inflammatory action. Some may suppose, from the beneficial effects of the ointment with the extract in the case of sloughing ulcer from chilblains, noticed by Mr. Blackett, that its *local* action is not sedative or debilitating; but cases of sloughing or local mortification, arise from increased as well as from diminished excitement; and consequently a remedy capable of lessening the excitement, would promote the suppuration of the part, or prevent the extension of mischief. The direct sedative effects of the deadly nightshade on the nervous system were well known to the ancients, but its peculiar operation on the iris is a modern discovery. The late Professor Cullen found it to succeed in dispersing a schirrous tumour of the breast, and to heal a phagedænic ulcer of the face, which exhibited strong characters of cancer. The late Dr. Cheston of Gloucester, often prescribed the leaves as a topical application to irritative ulcers, and to allay itching of the skin, to which gouty and elderly people are liable. The saturated tincture should be made as directed by the author of the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, with the extract made *in vacuo*, or by expediting the evaporation of the water of the decoction of the leaves, at the temperature of 180, by means of the electric aura, a method more expeditious, and, in many respects, preferable to that in vacuo.

GALVANISM.

Mr. La Beaume, of Southampton Row, Russel Square, whose successful treatment of indigestion, nervous and bilious complaints by galvanism we have often noticed in our pages, has lately invented two new galvanic batteries. The object of the one is to increase the galvanic power to a very considerable degree, and the other to continue it for a considerable time without any fresh excitation. Both these important ends are fully effected by a metallic and a semi-metallic substance combined, and another metal less oxydable, the surfaces of which are acted upon by one or two mineral acids diluted with pure water. Our correspondent observes, that the *power* and *perpetuity* obtained by these means are very great, though contrary to the hitherto known laws of galvanism, which require *two* dissimilar metals and an interposed fluid to develope the galvanic influence. The former *apparatus* consists of a series of very minute plates, so

portable that it may be carried in a waistcoat pocket, yet capable of developing a stronger galvanic power than is necessary even for cases of suspended animation. The other apparatus is chiefly designed for medical practice, being not only capable of increased power, but by a very ingenious contrivance of perpetuating the action to any length of time for a succession of operations. This machine is a covered box with large circular plates of the combined metals, revolving on an axis in crystal cells of diluted acids, so that a new surface is constantly presented for each application without the trouble of charging fresh batteries, wiping the plates, and producing an unpleasant effluvium from an increase of the acid. The appearance too of the battery is less formidable to the patient, and the greatest facility is afforded of removing the oxydated surfaces by a single revolution, and preserving the acid solution in full strength. This discovery is no less interesting to the philosopher than the successful results of galvanism in the cure of chronic diseases is to the profession.

The complaints in which galvanism has been found most beneficial are the derangements of the stomach, liver, and bowels, inducing a variety of ailments, blindness, gout, rheumatism, palsy, affections of the joints, cutaneous diseases, habitual asthma, epilepsy, &c. Philosophical and mechanical agents are certainly powerful auxiliaries in medical practice, and would no doubt be more extensively used in the cure of diseases, but from the selfishness of the legitimate tribe, who assert that a knowledge of the dead language is of greater importance than that of medicine to form a physician. The utility of galvanism, as an auxiliary to drugs, is now too well established to be controverted. Mr. La Beaume has for these last seven years given it a most extensive trial in the metropolis, and we have not only heard of his successful practice from most respectable quarters, but we can speak from our personal knowledge that many individuals have derived the greatest benefit from its use under the management of Mr. La Beaume, whose medical science and long experience of the powers of his remedies, fully entitle him to the confidence of the profession. The *indiscriminate* use of all remedies has affected their reputation; and a curative process, like that of galvanism, directed to *effects* instead of *causes*, will be found equally unavailing; but Mr. La Beaume has adopted the judicious plan of regarding cases individually, and, we believe, has never employed galvanism, (of which he must be the best judge,) without a fair prospect of success. His attention is directed to the removal of the causes of disease, and not merely to the palliation of their effects. Hence recovery has followed in many instances, after medicines had failed, in subjects far advanced in years, and who had long suffered from debility of the digestive organs and an indolent state of the intestines.

THE HOSPITAL PRACTICE OF PARIS.

Dr. Ratier, a French physician of some eminence, has lately published the practical formulary of the civil hospitals of Paris, by which it appears that the physicians of some of the medical institutions have agreed on a plan of treating every disease, which after

the name has been given to it, the apothecary or even the nurse may employ. To the British practitioner the bigoted and unphilosophical manner in which diseases are treated by the leading physicians of Paris, will at any rate afford amusement. Notwithstanding the opportunities the medical schools of Paris afford for acquiring a knowledge of anatomy, physiology and chemistry, and the ardour with which the medical pupils pursue their studies, the treatment of disease has not advanced one step in France since the darkest age, or the revival of learning in Europe. So contemptibly inert or unproportionate to the nature of the disease is their mode of treatment, that no English physician, except a true legitimate, will deny that many, very many patients die in the hospitals of Paris, which might have been saved by a more decisive or energetic practice, and with us feel disposed to attribute the extraordinary fact of the mortality of Paris exceeding that of London, to the inert practice of the physicians;—a practice, which is calculated more to amuse the mind than benefit the body.

As a specimen of their settled unphilosophical practice, we shall give a translation of their mode of treating the Devonshire Colic, a formidable disease to which painters are subject, from the baneful effects of lead, as laid down by the old fathers, alias the old women of the Hospital of charity, and at this time adopted by the *celebrated* Doctor Lerminier and other *eminent* practitioners with the most scrupulous exactness.

Treatment of the Colic of Painters.

On the *first* day, administer the following lavement, termed the purgative lavement of painters:

Boil half an ounce of the Senna Leaves in a pint of water for a few minutes; and add to the strained liquor,

Glauber's Salt, half an ounce; and
Antimonial Wine, four ounces.

Query.—Is this lavement to be administered on the "*first* day" of the attack, or the "*first* day" of admission of the patient into the charity?

During the day, the following composition is given as a common drink, under the name of "*Eau de Casse avec les grains.*"

Take of the Simple Water of Cassia Buds, two pounds;
Epsom Salt, one ounce;
Emetic Tartar, 3 grains;
Syrup of Black Elderberries, one ounce.—Mix.

At *Five o'Clock* in the evening, the following lavement (termed the anodyne lavement of painters) is given:

Take of the Oil of Nuts, six ounces;
Red Wine, twelve ounces.—Mix.

At *Eight o'Clock* in the same evening, the following bolus is administered:

Take of Venice Treacle, one drachm;
Opium, one grain.—Mix.

On the second day, the following emetic, termed the *Eau benite*, is given:

Take of Emetic Tartar, three grains;
Warm Water, a quarter of a pint.—Mix.

This draught is repeated after an interval of an hour; and its operation facilitated by copious draughts of warm water. When the operation has ceased, the following decoction, termed the *sudorific Tisane*, is taken as a common drink:

Take of Guaiac Wood,
China Root,
Sarsaparilla, of each, one drachm;
To be boiled in two pints of water, till reduced to a pint, then add,
Sassafras Root, Sliced, one ounce;
Liquorice ditto, ditto, half an ounce;
And after simmering for a few minutes, strain off the liquor.

In the evening, the anodyne lavement and bolus are repeated.

On the third day the *laxative* sudorific Tisane is taken, made by boiling an ounce of senna leaves in two pints of the *sudorific Tisane*, for about five minutes. This quantity is taken in the course of the forenoon in four doses. During the remaining part of the day, the *simple* sudorific Tisane is freely taken. In the same evening, at four o'clock, the *purgative* lavement of painters is administered;—at six o'clock, the anodyne lavement of painters;—at eight, the anodyne bolus.

On the fourth day the following mixture, which is called the purgative draught of painters:

Take of Infusion of Senna Leaves, six ounces;
Glauber's Salt, half an ounce;
Powdered Jalep Root, one drachm;
Syrup of Elder-berries, one ounce.—Mix.

The operation of this mixture is promoted by herb broth. During the day, the simple sudorific Tisane is freely taken.

In the evening at five, the anodyne lavement—at eight the anodyne bolus.

On the fifth day, the laxative sudorific Tisane, is taken during the day;—in the evening, at five, the purgative lavement;—at six, the anodyne lavement;—at eight, the anodyne bolus."!!! So much for the improved state of the therapeutical department of *legitimate* medicine in Paris.

Whatever may be the state of the stomach and bowels, or the effects of the *Tisanes* on the disease, the plan of treatment laid down by the fathers of the Institution is rigidly employed, and no fresh symptom or alteration in the disease is allowed to interfere with it. Although the patient be reduced by violent purging or vomiting, the *laxative* sudorific Tisane and the emetic Tisane, or "*Eau benite*," are to be exhibited as directed by the learned fathers, and no occurrence, except death, is admitted as an excuse for the slightest deviation or omission!!

The moral and intellectual treatment of insane people, adopted at the "*Hospital de la Salpetriere*," being much more judicious than that employed at the institutions of this country, we shall give a sketch of it in our next Number.

BALDNESS AND WEAK HAIR.

SIRS,—The article which you have given in your sixth number on baldness, has induced me to send you a recipe for a remedy for

baldness, and for strengthening the hair, which has been long employed at the Cape, and generally held in great estimation for promoting the growth of the hair in bald parts, as well as strengthening weak hair. It is as follows :

Take of the Spirit of Buchu Leaves, (Diosma Crenata) 4 ounces;
Olive Oil, six ounces.

To be well shaken in a bottle immediately before using it.

The spirit of the buchu leaves is a very common article at the Cape, under the name of buchu brandy; and is justly considered a most excellent nervous cordial, strengthening the stomach and nervous system, without inflaming the body. It is there made by distilling the recent leaves in the dregs of the Cape wine. From each pound, a gallon of spirit is generally drawn over, of the strength of the white brandy of Bordeaux, which is nearly as strong as the rectified spirit of *wine*, used by druggists of this country. The bald parts or weak hair are to be rubbed with the mixture by means of flannel every night at bed time. Some add a drachm of the essence of lemon to cover the odour of the buchu leaves; but by the natives of the Cape, the leaves are considered a pleasant perfume.

During my residence at the Cape, I and my friends have often had a hearty laugh at the credulity of our countrymen, or the gullability of poor honest John Bull. Surely, Messrs. Editors, the proprietors of the Macassar Oil, or the Russian Oil, and the vender of bear's grease, have some method of importing those *valuable* articles by invisible baloons; for notwithstanding the great distance of the countries from whence they are obtained, they can supply a person for exportation to any extent in a few days; and it appears, that although tons of them have been sold in this country, they are not known at any custom house, not a farthing having been paid for duty on importation; a proof that the proprietors have some plan of traversing the atmosphere, which is not known to the philosophical world. Since I arrived in England, an article has been introduced for beautifying the skin, which was first discovered by a lady, of great *botanical* knowledge, during her travels in South America, termed *Kalydor!!!* This, although a preparation from a *vegetable* product of South America, may, fortunately for vain ladies, be obtained to any extent after two days' notice; and although all the venders in the country are well stocked with it, not one farthing has been paid for duty on importation!! Having accidentally met with this wonderfully beautifying article, I took the liberty of endeavouring to become acquainted with it; when to my astonishment, I discovered my old friend, "Warren's *Milk of Roses*," degenerated in no little degree (probably in consequence of visiting South America or an aerial voyage!) with a *new* name!!!

When I was in London, I think in the year 1806, a new remedy for gout was introduced by Dr. Jones, under the name of the *Eau Medicinale*, as coming from France; and when the demand for it increased, the price was suddenly advanced from four to nine shillings a bottle, in consequence, as the proprietor said, of a duty of five shillings a bottle being paid on importation!!! But although many thousand bottles of it were sold in the course of six months, only three

pounds were paid for duty, and that was for a box which was received by a druggist from Jersey, who had sent the vinous infusion of the colchicum root to his friend there to put into French bottles, and return to him under the name of Eau Medicinale!!! The vender of the article, to whom Dr. Jones referred his readers for it, was able to supply a person with any quantity on giving two days' notice!!! The proprietors of the true balm of Gilead, balsam of Mecca, and balsam of Rakasiri, although products of a country some thousand miles distant, are never out of the articles, and although considerable quantities are sold annually in this country, not one farthing has been paid for duty on importation at any custom house of this kingdom; yet, however, they may be obtained to any extent after giving the proprietors two days' notice!! Surely, Messrs. Editors, it is incumbent on the legislature immediately to institute an inquiry into the means by which the proprietors of those exotics contrive to smuggle their articles into this country with such wonderful celerity.

Pray, Messrs. Editors, endeavour to throw some light on this mysterious mode of importation, for the edification of the *credulous* part, or dupes of the community, and for those who have near relations abroad, to whom they may be desirous of expeditiously transmitting some important intelligence.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health. JAMES OWEN JONES.

CAUL.

A gentleman of Baker Street, Portman Square, informs us that he has discovered a traffic in what are termed cauls, which has been very productive to a midwife and a person living in the neighbourhood of Fitzroy Square. Among the wives of sailors the foolish superstition has long prevailed, that as long as they were in possession of a caul, their husbands could not be shipwrecked; and this idea, it seems, is entertained even by some ladies of rank; for it appears, by our correspondent's account, that on advertising a caul, many ladies often call in their carriages to purchase one, at the rate of twenty guineas each!! What is termed the caul, is only part of the membrane which retains the liquor amnii (termed by nurses the waters) which may be, in forty-eight cases out of fifty, brought away with the head of the child, and in all cases may be separated after delivery. We have heard a late lecturer on midwifery, who was celebrated for making his pupils very cunning practitioners, recommend them occasionally to save a portion of the membrane, and present it as a caul, because it would so much please the parents, that they would with pleasure pay the bill for medicine and attendance; and not being a common occurrence, they would entertain a higher opinion of his skill, and consider him a lucky practitioner—a character of great consequence to an accoucheur.

Our correspondent states, that the midwife to whom he alludes, always preserves a part of the membrane when he can do it without detection; and that when dried, his agent advertises it, and that he generally gets a purchaser at the moderate price of twenty guineas. In some catholic countries, the idea prevails that the caul perishes at the time the person dies, and that by its appearance they judge of the health of the person with whom it was produced, when in a distant country. The caul is not an extra production, as imagined by some ignorant persons, being only part of the after-birth, either detached during or after labour.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 104.] To AUGUST 1, 1824. [Vol. IX.

Of the late Dr. WALL.

This gentleman, who lately died at his residence in Oxford, was the youngest son of the late Dr. Wall of Worcester, who about fifty years since published an analysis of the Malvern water, with remarks on its medicinal virtues, &c. After keeping the requisite number of terms at the university of Oxford, to entitle him to the degree of M. D. the doctor attended lectures on the different branches of medicine by Cullen, Monro, Black, Hunter, and the practice of the hospitals of London and Edinburgh, to qualify him to discharge the important office of physician, which his father deemed necessary, notwithstanding he possessed a diploma authorising him to exercise his profession in any part of the kingdom!!! He commenced his medical career in Oxford, where, through the interest of his father, he formed a respectable connexion, that induced him to continue there till the period of his death. Although he held the appointment of physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary, was many years Lecturer on Chemistry, and had the good fortune of succeeding the late Dr. Parsons to the Clinical Professorship,—the Doctor has not extended his fame beyond the walls of Oxford. In that University he was considered by some of the blind, not to say *interested* defenders of legitimate medicine, as established by Hippocrates, Galen, and other ancient authors, a man of judgment and a most *learned* physician, because he could *read* the works of Hippocrates and Galen in the languages in which they were *originally* published.

The late KING *and* QUEEN *of the* SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Soon after these people arrived in London, they determined to be vaccinated, not only to secure themselves against small-pox infection, (a disease they dreaded exceedingly,) but to avoid conveying the contagion to their subjects on their return to their dominions. After vaccination had run its course to their perfect satisfaction, they were unfortunately attacked by measles, which was attended with such a high degree of inflammation of the lungs, that resisted the means adopted by their physicians to subdue it. Whether the means were proportioned to the degree of mischief in a vital part, and to the size and strength of the people, the information we have obtained of the practice, will not justify us in giving an opinion. The silence observed by the medical attendants, connected with the most extraordinary circumstance of a man and his wife, who were apparently in perfect health when they were attacked, falling a sacrifice to a disease, which is as much under the controul of medicine as any malady, is not creditable to the physicians, and the result confirms the old saying of "too many cooks," &c. &c.

The event is greatly to be lamented, because the object of their visit to this island was to obtain a knowledge of the state of society of the most enlightened, *virtuous*, and free country in the world,

for the most praiseworthy purpose of civilizing their own subjects and increasing their comforts. Had they lived, they might have availed themselves of the opportunity of becoming practically acquainted with the manners and habits of some of our Royal Dukes and noble families, by attending the late splendid dejuné party at Mrs. Coutts's cottage. This would have taught them that money in this enlightened country has no pernicious influence on virtuous minds. Whatever the state of society in the Sandwich Islands may be, we suspect, from the anxiety the King and Queen evinced to ameliorate the condition of their subjects, and to enlighten their minds, and from their truly benevolent dispositions and attachment to each other, that many monarchs of *enlightened* Europe, are some centuries behind them in civilization, common sense, morality, and even *practical* Christianity.

THE LATE LORD BYRON.

A gentleman who was with this nobleman during his last illness, informs us that he fell a sacrifice to the typhus fever of the country, the first stage of which is highly inflammatory (chiefly attacking the brain), and which, if not checked in the onset, by copious bleeding and purging, produces so much mischief in the constitution as to destroy life in a few days. His lordship, on the first attack, was urged by his medical friend to lose blood; but such was his dislike to the operation, that he and his lordship's friends could not prevail on him to submit to it. His lordship's health having greatly suffered from mental anxiety, and an attack of acute rheumatism, the progress of the fever was very rapid.

MR. PHILLIPS'S TRANSLATION OF THE NEW LONDON PHARMACOPŒIA.

(*Continued from fol.* 992.)

The solution of the sub-acetate of lead, Mr. Phillips says, "is frequently made with the *residuum* of the distillation of vinegar; and it has then a dark colour, and ought to be rejected." The acid of the residuum being acetic acid, the solution of lead in it is assuredly an acetate of lead; and even when the vinegar of trade is distilled, the sulphuric acid in the residuum, which is very small, forms with the lead an insoluble salt. The liquor of subacetate of lead, made with the residuum, for external purposes, will answer as well as that made with the dilute acetic acid. In fact it is, chemically and therapeutically speaking, one and the same thing. We have been induced to notice the translator's observation, because, in several of his notes, he suggests different modes of preparing articles, on the score of economy; and in the laboratory of the apothecary, or trading chemist, the employment of residua is one of the advantages of the science of chemistry. For human medicine, the pharmaceutical articles should certainly be strictly made according to the directions of the pharmacopœia of the country, without any regard to economy; but for the use of artisans, and for what is termed animal medicine, chemical nicety is, in many articles, of no importance, so as the products are genuine.

In his note on the diluted acetate of lead, he says, "It is *justly* observed by Dr. Paris, that the quantity of spirit directed by the College to be used, is much too small to answer the intention of increasing the *refrigerating effect* of the acetate of lead; the quantity of spirit amounting to scarcely 1-220th part of the whole fluid." He adds, "It is employed as an application in *superficial* inflammation."

The spirit can only "increase the refrigerating effect of the acetate of lead," by evaporation; and in many cases of inflammation, where evaporation is prevented by situation, or the mode of applying it, a greater proportion of spirit, instead of "increasing the *refrigerating* effects of the acetate of lead," would have a very contrary effect, and increase the degree of heat of the part which it was intended to reduce. If the learned chemist, and his learned *friend* Dr. Paris, were acquainted with surgery, they would know that, in cases of superficial inflammation of the eye, or vagina, the proportion of spirit directed by the college is not too small, and that a greater quantity would prove injurious. We are sorry the chemist, or his learned friend Dr. Paris, has not attempted to account, either chemically or pharmacologically, for the "refrigerating effects" of the *acetate of lead*, in cases of superficial inflammation. In such cases, the topical application of the "acetate of lead" increases the inflammation; and also a strong solution of it. It is only in a very diluted state it reduces the temperature of an inflamed part; and it is probable, this effect is the consequence of the low temperature of the water; for if the temperature of the lotion be the same as that of the inflamed part, the acetate of lead, which it holds in solution, will evince no "refugerating effect." Some surgeons attribute the supposed contra-stimulating, or, according to chemical phraseology, *refrigerating* effects of the lotion of the acetate of lead, to the paralysing effects of the lead on the nerves of the inflamed part; whilst others assert that they have found cold water answer as well as the lotion of acetate of lead, and diluted vinegar better than either.

The *just* observation of Dr. Paris, on the formula of the College of Physicians for the diluted solution of the sub-acetate of lead having been published in his pharmacologia some years before the new Pharmacopœia appeared, why did the College not attend to it? The doctor being a member of the College, having given the members lectures on Pharmacology, and the art of prescribing scientifically, and having made it appear that he is the pharmacological star of the College, it seems most extraordinary to us, that they should not have paid the smallest attention to the chemical or therapeutical observations either just or unjust, scientific or ignorant, in his Pharmacologia, on correcting their Pharmacopœia; and what is still more remarkable, the annotations he made in the margins of the proof copy of the Pharmacopœia, which was sent to him in common with all the members, were totally disregarded by them!! Has the little puffing account the doctor gave of that "valuable domestic preparation, the essence of senna," prepared by his relative, destroyed his influence among them? or has the doctor given offence to the College by the insulting remarks he has made on the licentiates, in his work on Medical Jurisprudence?

In a note on the extract of opium, Mr. Phillips observes, "opium

contains two *peculiar* vegetable compounds, in which its *power* resides; viz. morphia and narcotin." The latter article, he says, (on the authority, we suppose, of the great Dr. Paris, for he admits he has not witnessed its effects,) "occasions the excitement which opium produces, and that the *subsequent sedative* effect is occasioned by the former; and in another place, speaking of the medicinal qualities of morphia,—he says, it exerts but little action, in consequence of its *insolubility*; and that its strength is not commensurate with its *apparent* concentration."—It having been satisfactorily ascertained that it is soluble in the gastric juice, and no physician acquainted with the nearly universal solvent power of that secretion, will deny it, its "little action" on the stomach, &c. cannot be "justly" attributed to its insolubility. After speaking of its insolubility, he says, "the *spirituous solution* being exhibited in repeated doses, each containing half a grain of morphia, the effects it produced were at first *excitation*, then weakness, numbness, and tendency to fainting; vinegar being then swallowed, caused *violent* vomiting." The experiment under the superintendance of Mr. Phillips, was probably *scientifically* conducted; but even in the Pharmacologia of Dr. Paris, we have not met with an experiment so unscientifically or stupidly related. Did the excitation follow each dose of the spirituous solution, or were the weakness, numbness, and tendency to fainting, the consequences of the repetition of the solution? Had the accurate chemist condescended to notice the time which had elapsed before the repetition of each dose, and the proportion of the spirit to morphia, his readers might have formed some idea of the information he intended to convey to them. After asserting that the *sedative* effects of opium are produced by the component part, termed morphia, and the excitation by that termed narcotin, does he mean to say, that the excitation in the above experiment, was occasioned by the spirit?

The results of the various experiments made with morphia, must prove very satisfactory to the public, for whose benefit they were conducted. A French physician advises his pupils not to commence the use of morphia in a larger dose than half a grain; for, being a *direct* sedative, it may on some debilitated subjects induce a most dangerous degree of debility. Dr. de Sanctis, a physician of great experience, scientific attainments, and, what is still of greater consequence, of sound judgment, cautious observation, and integrity, states, that in the dose of a grain it produced an immediate sedative effect on himself, even when the system was in a state of great excitement from an accident. Mr. Phillips says that repeated doses of *half* a grain dissolved in spirit *after excitation*, produced weakness, numbness, and tendency to fainting, a state very nearly approaching death; and Mr. Batley, another chemical luminary of the city, boldly asserts that he has given it to the extent of two hundred grains, without producing any sensible effect, and that he believes it contains no sedative property whatever.(!!!)

In an annotation on the "medicinal uses" of the extract of the wild cucumber, Mr. Phillips observes that "its *properties* have been particularly examined by Dr. Paris, and according to *his* experiments, they reside in a peculiar substance which *he* has called *elatin*." Now every medical man who attends to the progress of medicine, as com-

municated by the periodical journals, knows that the fact was first ascertained by Dr. Clutterbuck, an eminent physician of London, and the merit of the discovery, Dr. Paris himself gives to Dr. Clutterbuck. A few years ago, Mr. Phillips and Dr. Paris were lashing each other most unmercifully; the chemist pointing out the errors of the pharmacologian, and the latter accusing the chemist of what he terms *ultra*-chemistry and unfair criticism. Fortunately for the *science* of medicine, they are now reconciled, and become sworn friends!!!

The medicinal virtues of hemlock, Mr. Phillips asserts, on the authority of his scientific friend, Dr. Paris, reside in a *peculiar* resinous matter, *insoluble* in water, to which Dr. Paris has given the name of conein. The doctor's cook could have told him that a *watery* infusion of the leaves contains all the medicinal virtues of the plant. The peculiar *resinous* matter which the doctor has discovered not being an alcali, he might, with as much propriety, have termed it *stultin* as *conein*.

The therapeutical observations dispersed through the work being taken from Dr. Paris's Pharmacologia, are unworthy of notice; and had Mr. Phillips been acquainted with this department of medicine, he would not have quoted so freely such a work. Most of the chemical annotations are misplaced in a Pharmacopœia, and many of them are pedantic. The incompatibles, in a *medical* point of view, as we observed in our last number, are ridiculous, and, in a strictly chemical point of view, they are contemptible exhibitions of what a French writer has termed the tinsel of chemistry. We will take, as an example, the incompatibles of an article used both in medicine, and analytical chemistry, viz. *potass*. "They are (says Mr. Phillips) *acids, acidulous salts*, and *sub-carbonates*." It is clear, from this extract, that the incompatibles have nothing to do with a medical or therapeutical composition; for it is common for physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, to order a composition of potass, acids, and acidulous salts, and even carbonates, who are as well acquainted with the science of chemistry as Messrs. Paris, Phillips, and Thompson. Indeed, we may say that some of our most elegant compositions are, according to the incompatibilists, unchemical or unscientific; for instance, the addition of carbonate of potass to a solution of the sulphate of magnesia forms a mild and efficacious aperient draught; the potass uniting with the sulphuric acid forms the sulphate of potass, and the disengaged carbonic acid of the carbonate of potass uniting with the magnesia of the sulphate, forms carbonate of magnesia, which is held in solution. In fact, the incompatibles are prescribed by *chemical* physicians to produce new compounds. If then they are not introduced into the Pharmacopœia as a guide for physicians, &c., in prescribing medicine, of what *chemical* use are they? Do Messrs. Phillips and Thompson suppose that the apothecaries of this country are so ignorant of chemistry, as not to know that an acid and an alcali will unite, and form a neutral salt? If then the incompatibles are not noticed to disturb (as one chemist observes) the compounds of experienced authors, the medicinal virtues of which have been confirmed by the experience of ages, or as a guide for prescribing medicines, why are the compounders of prescriptions recommended

by the incompatiblists to place a table of incompatibles in a prominent part of their shops or dispensaries?

We have entered fully on the subject of incompatibles, because we have heard prescriptions of eminent physicians and surgeons condemned in a public shop by an ignorant compounder, as *unchemical* and unscientific; because forsooth, some of the articles were according to the table—incompatibles!!

Dr. Paris has not only made a pompous exhibition of chemical incompatibles, but also of therapeutical incompatibles; and for the edification of the members of the College, has given a long article on the "art of prescribing," which he has attempted to simplify by key letters, and which he modestly states, is the substance of a lecture he delivered to the Fellows of the College!!! In the part which he denominates "a synopsis of the *principles* of combination(!!)" he has given nearly two hundred extemporaneous formulæ, for the purpose of explaining the "rationale of his therapeutical compositions, by references to a table of *key* letters," which one of the learned Fellows of the College paid him the high compliment, of comparing to that species of wit, which

"Requires as much again to understand it."

For the purpose of more clearly elucidating his system of scientific therapeutics, or therapeutical compatibilism, he has given a prescription of an eminent physician, (of course not a Fellow of the College,) which he considered *unscientific*; of which the following is a translation, with the doctor's key letter references.

Take of Dried Squills, four grains;
Ditto Leaves of the Foxglove, 10 ditto . . B.
Prepared calomel, six grains . . . . . C.
Powdered Myrrh, one scruple;
After being well rubbed together, add B. } C.
Assafœtida, half a drachm;
Extract of Gentian . . . . . C. O.
a sufficient quantity to form a mass;

then divide into fifteen pills, of which one is to be taken night and morning.

On this composition, the learned therapeutical compatiblist makes the following *scientific* remarks:

"This formula is introduced as a combination *supported by authority*, (!!) although it may be questioned whether its adoption can be sanctioned upon *principle*. (!!) Let us," says he, "decypher the INTENTION of the different ingredients by their *key letters*. The *basis* is squill; to which the foxglove, for the purpose of acting in unison with it, and calomel, which succeeds it, is intended to *promote* and *direct* the *diuretic* basis;—two fœtid gums next present themselves to our notice; and these are shewn, by the bracket, to exert a combined action, depending, as the key letter announces, upon the medical similarity, but acting in the *general scheme* of the formula, *as shewn* by the exterior letter, for the purpose of fulfilling the second indication *distinct* and *different* to that which the *basis* is designed to answer, *i. e.* to produce, NOT a diuretic, *but* an antispasmodic *and* stimulant effect. (!!!)—An important question," proceeds the doctor,

" then arises for our consideration:—is the *latter* part of the formula *consistent* with the *former*, or is the *stimulant effect* of the gums *compatible* with the *sedative* operation of the foxglove?"

During the whole course of our medical reading, we never met with such a contemptible piece of theory, or legitimate reasoning. The fœtid gums, myrrh, and asafœtida, (the former we do not consider a fœtid gum) are incompatible with the basis, squill, and its auxiliary, foxglove, because they are antispasmodic!!! Is not a paucity of urine often the consequence of spasmodic constriction? and in such case, would not an *anti*-spasmodic promote the diuretic effects of the squill and foxglove? Now do not the fœtid gums allay spasms by their *stimulating* property? and do not squill and foxglove increase the secretion of urine by stimulating the kidneys? As to the medical properties of the squill, we do not believe there is an apothecary in the kingdom so ignorant of them as to term it a sedative, for so powerfully stimulating is it, that it is capable of blistering the skin; and the dried root, taken internally to the extent of a grain, will accelerate the circulation and increase the heat of the body. Has the learned Doctor, and the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, to learn that one medicine will produce even opposite effects on different parts of the body? The foxglove, by allaying irritability or diminishing muscular power, particularly of the heart and arteries, retards the circulation, but at the same time it will increase the action of the absorbent vessels, assuredly not by a sedative, but by a stimulating effect. To the muscular system foxglove is a sedative, but to the absorbent system it is a stimulus. That medicines have different effects on different parts of the body, is a fact well known to every apothecary, if not to the clinical lecturers and medical teachers of Oxford and Cambridge, and the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of London. A watery infusion of ipecacuana will not irritate the most sensible part of the body—the external covering of the eye; and yet when applied to the internal surface of the stomach, it will excite such a degree of irritation as to bring the diaphragm and abdominal muscles violently into action, to expel it. The carbonic acid gas will allay irritation in the stomach, and yet excite considerable irritation, and even violent spasms, when taken into the lungs, and that too, although branches of the same nerves go to the stomach and lungs, viz. the eighth.

Rhubarb to the taste is a powerful astringent, and the infusion of it has been successfully used as an astringent gargle in cases of relaxation of the soft palate and uvula, and the powder for constringing the surface of indolent or glassy ulcers; and yet on the intestines it produces a purgative effect. Again, some medicines which stimulate the palate and stomach, produce a sedative effect on remote parts. The cubeb pepper, for instance, although it powerfully stimulates the palate and stomach, allays irritation, and even acute inflammation of the membrane lining the urethra. It is therefore ridiculous to attempt to lay down a plan for prescribing medicines according to their sensible effects, inasmuch as these effects are different on different parts of the body. The prescription Dr. Paris has introduced for the purpose of elucidating his scientific system of therapeutics, or of his art of prescribing, he says, is from authority. It is the prescription of an eminent

physician; and the doctor by exposing the incompatible articles, of course proves satisfactorily to himself that he is a more scientific physician than the prescriber, great as the authority is!!!

For the purpose of displaying his *superior* knowledge of the art of prescribing scientifically, and demonstrating the advantages of his system of prescribing combinations of drugs, he has fancied the case, in order that he may render the incompatibles more obvious. Now supposing the composition was prescribed for a debilitated asthmatic, whose vital powers had so far given way, that effusion of serum had taken place in the chest, the digestive organs in a state of debility, the intestinal canal distended with gas, the legs edematous, and the kidneys in an indolent state; will any practitioner of experience and observation say that this said combination of therapeutical incompatibles was improper, or inapplicable to the case? We say, without any fear of contradiction even from the President of the College himself, that neither Dr. Paris, nor any Fellow of the College, could prescribe a more proper medicine for such a patient. Dr. Paris possesses that happy diversity of talent which is necessary to conduct a barrister to *honour* and *fame*, viz. of defending his client "through thick and thin." Notwithstanding his imposing display of scientific attainments, in pointing out the chemical incompatibles, his efforts to establish a scientific system of therapeutics, and his remarks on the therapeutical incompatibles of a prescription of a physician of eminence, he has given a copy of a prescription of his friend Dr. Scudamore, for the purpose of proving that the critical remarks that have been made on it, by the editors of the Medical Journals of England and France, are *ultra*-chemical. Of this *scientific* prescription, we will give a copy in our next Number, with remarks on its chemistry, and the doctor's inconsistencies.

WEN.

About two years since, we met in the parish of Mathon, near Great Malvern, two young women, one about seventeen and the other about fifteen years of age, each of whom had a very large wen, indeed that of the eldest was the largest we had ever seen. Finding that they were very desirous to get rid of their deformities, we sent them a large vial of the tincture of iodine with directions for taking it. On a visit to a friend in the neighbourhood, about two months ago, we had the great pleasure of learning the medicine had completely succeeded in reducing the glands to their natural size, and that not the slightest vestige of the disease remained. A near relative, we believe their aunt, informed us, that the tumours began to decrease after taking the medicine a few weeks, and that in the course of twelve months they disappeared; that about six months ago, a slight enlargement of the gland appearing in the eldest, her mother had again recourse to the medicine, which in a few weeks entirely removed it. These cases are the most decisive of the efficacy of the internal use of the tincture of iodine, which we have had the opportunity of seeing; and in our opinion fully establishes its specific powers, in the cure of the disease in young subjects. It was exhibited with a decoction of the marshmallow root, and no external application was employed.

CROUP.

Drs. Copland and Dunglison have published the following interesting case of croup, in which the operation of making an opening into the windpipe (tracheotomy) proved successful, in the practice of Mr. Hume, an eminent surgeon of Coventry.

Mrs. Boddington, aged thirty-one, wife of a respectable watchmaker, and mother of three children, was attacked, on Wednesday, the 12th of May, 1824, with severe pain and sense of heat in the upper part of the throat, attended with great difficulty of breathing, and fever; in consequence, as he supposed, of a neglected cold. Being much alarmed by a sense of suffocation, she sent for Mr. Hume on Friday, the 14th. Mr. Hume found her labouring under great pain and difficulty of breathing, accompanied with a whizzing sound on inspiration; pulse above 110, and considerable increase of the temperature of the body. Her countenance was peculiarly anxious, and by every inspiration the respiratory muscles were brought into excessive action. She could scarcely articulate so as to be understood; bowels costive, and tongue furred. The disease being too far advanced to trust to calomel and emetic tartar, and the usual antiphlogistic remedies, Mr. Hume merely bled her, to suspend its progress, until he had consulted Dr. Loutham and Mr. Whitewell, as to the propriety of immediately dividing the windpipe. These gentlemen agreeing with Mr. Hume as to the necessity of the operation, Mr. H. performed it within an hour from the time of his first seeing her. As soon as he cut into the windpipe she was relieved: she was then put to bed in a sitting posture, the wound being left open without any dressing or covering; after which, a saline aperient draught was administered. Mr. Hume, on visiting her in the evening, found her comparatively well. The aperient medicine had operated, she was cool, and her pulse only 95. On the 15th, he found her continuing to improve. She had passed a good night, sleeping occasionally; but was troubled a good deal by cough, which gave her pain, and forced bloody mucus through the wound. The mixture was continued, with a small addition of the tincture of henbane. On the next day she was perfectly easy. Some discharge of mucus escaped from the opening upon coughing, and she seemed to breathe through the mouth; the fever was moderate, and the bowels open. During the night, she experienced a considerable degree of fever, but on the 17th she breathed freely. The wound was closing at the bottom by granulation, and her cough was less troublesome. Mr. Hume prescribed a little calomel and antimonial powder, in addition to the former remedies. On the 18th, in consequence of the fever having terminated, she appeared comfortable; and from this period she continued gradually to improve, so that on the 4th of June she was capable of attending to her family concerns.

On this case Mr. Hume makes the following remarks.—"Croup is a complaint not frequently met with in adults; but there are few that have not seen it in grown-up people; and although the operation of cutting into the windpipe (tracheotomy) is very easy, still it is one which, in private practice, causes considerable interest; consequently

it has been less practised than, perhaps, it ought to have been, as a failure might prejudice the public against the operator. I have myself seen one or two cases, and heard of others, in which I have no doubt that an operation would have been the best remedy.

"How far it may be successful upon children, is a question; for with them it must be attended with many great difficulties. Mrs. Boddington, being of a spare habit, was a good patient for the operation. The thyroid gland was enlarged, so that it was necessary to make the opening a little to one side of the windpipe. A branch of one of the thyroid arteries was divided, and bled rather freely. The only difficulty was in cutting out a small portion of the rings of the windpipe, so as to preserve a perfect opening: this was done with a pair of forceps and scissars; and the aperture was thus made so permanent that no canula was required."

The mode of operating adopted by Mr. Hume, *viz.* of removing a portion of the rings of the windpipe, so as to prevent the sides coming in contact, is unquestionably very preferable to that of introducing a canula after the incision; the irritation of this instrument, although flexible and the surface smooth, never failing to keep up irritation, or inflammatory action; and on account of the difficulty with which mucus is conveyed through it, the patient often experiences great inconvenience in breathing. The advantages of this mode of operating we have noticed in an early number.

EPILEPTIC FITS.

It appears by a late foreign publication, that a German physician of Numberg, of the name of Weitz, has long employed St. Ignatio's bean as a secret remedy for epilepsy, with such a degree of success as to render him so celebrated for the cure of this disease as to induce practitioners at a distance to send their epileptic patients to Numberg, to be under his care. The secret was handed down by him to his son, by whom it was entrusted to W. A. Haase, professor of materia medica in Leipsig university, on condition that it should not be made public till after young Weitz and his father were dead. Both of them being dead, and Professor Haase, having confirmed their opinion of the remedy by some trials made lately, has published a short account of its history, as an article of the Materia Medica, and his experience of its virtues in epilepsy, and some other diseases. The cases of epilepsy he has published, are five in number: the first was that of a girl 20 years old, whom he placed under the care of Weitz. She had been first seized with epilepsy in her 18th year; the paroxysms recurred, at the beginning, once every two months, but afterwards she had them once or twice a week. After being put under the care of the physician of Numberg, she had only one paroxysm, and never had another from that period down to the date of Haase's publication, eighteen years afterwards. The second case was that of a young man of sedentary and literary habits, who had frequently had epilepsy in his childhood, but remained tolerably free from it till betwixt his twentieth and thirtieth year; at the latter period, it attacked him more violently. Haase thus

gave him St. Ignatio's bean, under the use of which the paroxysms became gradually less frequent, till at last they ceased to return. The third patient was a man fifty years of age, liable to frequent paroxysms since his eighteenth year. His mental faculties were much impaired by the disease; his senses had become dull, and his bodily frame languid. In him the remedy evidently kept off the paroxysms, but it did not cure the disease. The fourth case was an habitual inebriate: the disease was cured in two months, but he died a year afterwards, of dorsal consumption, which had existed at the time he was first put under treatment. The last case arose from worms, which, it appears, was cured by removing the cause by St. Ignatio's bean. These cases, although certainly few in number, are perhaps sufficient to encourage the farther trial of the remedy.

Some practitioners suppose, that Saint Ignatio's bean is the fruit of a species of strynchnos, and the same which is sold under the name of Nux Vomica, from which some French chemists have lately obtained a peculiar alcali, (a potent poison,) to which they have given the name of *Strychnia*. Saint Ignatio's bean is the produce of a tree of the East Indies and Philippine Islands, termed the *Mananaog* or *Cantara*, and the younger Linnæus and succeeding naturalists have referred it to a distinct genus, (Ignatia amara.) The fruit resembles a gourd, each of which contains from twenty to thirty seeds, improperly called beans. They are of a roundish figure, irregular and uneven, of the size of a middle nutmeg, semi-transparent, of a horny texture, and of a white colour slightly tinged with blue. The seeds have a bitter taste, and when fresh, a musty smell. The inhabitants of the Philippine Islands employ them medicinally in cases of intermittent fever, asthma, epilepsy, worms, and suppression or deficiency of the menstrual secretion. They sometimes produce a powerful emetic and purgative effect. The bitter principle, which is strong in them, being similar in taste to the Prussic Acid, it is probable that its medical properties are dependent on its presence. The dose in powder is from one to two grains, two or three times a day, in a little water; and of the tincture, from thirty to forty drops, three times a day, in a glass of water. The seeds being very seldom employed in this country, those sold by dealers in herbs, &c. are in a very decayed state. In order that the remedy may have a fair trial, we shall, for the accommodation of our *medical* subscribers who may wish to prescribe the remedy, procure some, which have not been injured by age, and also prepare the tincture, (at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.) We say for our medical subscribers, because the effects of a remedy of such potency should be carefully watched by a professional gentleman.

We discovered by accident, about ten years since, that Saint Ignatio's bean was the basis of a remedy of a quack surgeon for spasmodic stricture, and for local debility attended with emaciation, which he termed *Dorsal Consumption*, and we have met with patients who thought that they derived considerable benefit from it.

EMETIC TARTAR. *(Tartarised Antimony.)*

In consequence of the recommendation of Professor Rasori of Milan, many Italian physicians exhibit this powerful article to the extent

of forty grains, in cases of inflammation of the lungs, as a direct sedative; and it appears by their reports, that in this frightful quantity, it neither disturbs the stomach nor the bowels. As the doctor's theory may account for the diversity of opinion which at present exists among some practitioners, as to the medical properties of the antimonial powder, we shall here give the substance of a late memoir by Professor Rasori.

The professor is of opinion, that large doses of tartar emetic do not excite vomiting, or disturb the alimentary canal, in cases of inflammation of the lungs, &c. in consequence of a peculiar diseased state of the system, for as the constitution begins to return to its healthy condition, the peculiarity ceases, and the article acts in the usual manner even in the usual small dose. The state of the system, which imparts this peculiarity, he considers a peculiar diathesis, varying in force, both according to the seat of the inflammation in the cavity of the chest, and at different periods of the disease, and in general it follows the course of the disease, increasing and diminishing in its effects, as the malady increases and diminishes, and finally disappearing with it. Hence, says he, the dose in which the remedy should be used, is very various; and on that account he always commences with a small dose, and increases it as long as it does not cause nausea; *but the smallest dose with which he commences, is twelve grains*, and if the disease has previously made some progress, he administers a scruple or half a drachm. As the disease advances, he augments the dose. The practitioner, he says, must not always diminish the dose when the disease begins to abate, for he has observed the capability of enduring a large dose sometimes to continue, although the symptoms had diminished; and in that case, if the remedy be not kept up to the full extent, the symptoms will be aggravated. In fact, the doses must be regulated not by the state of the disease, but by the power the system possesses of resisting them; they should not be diminished till they begin to excite nausea, or other signs of intestinal irritation. Occasionally, he remarks, the inflammatory state of the system decreases, though some of the severe symptoms, particularly the difficulty of breathing and affection of the mind, increase. In such cases he has uniformly found that organic changes were taking place in the lungs, generally the forerunner of death. The beneficial effects of tartar emetic do not arise from its emptying the stomach, exciting perspiration, or giving a salutary succussion to the viscera of the chest and abdomen, but according to the professor's theory, from a true contra-stimulant action, (like that of foxglove or Prussic acid,) which may produce its effects in subduing the inflammatory condition of the body or local inflammation without causing any sensible evacuation. To the cure of inflammatory diseases the professor states, that it is a remedy more appropriate than foxglove, which, besides being too irregular in its actions, is also too dangerous in its effects, when carried farther than the inflammatory condition enables the system to endure it. Rasori has seen the tartar emetic, like the foxglove, produce rapid diminution of the pulse, but he never observed a reduction below fifty. In many cases of inflammation of the lungs, he says, the tartar emetic alone will effect a cure, but he has frequently found it necessary to have recourse to abstaction of blood, especially when the disease has advanced so

far, or may be advancing so rapidly, as to threaten the substance of the lungs with speedy destruction; and then, says he, it would be dangerous to wait so long as is generally necessary for the action of the remedy to be fairly established. Other reasons likewise render bloodletting frequently advisable where it is not absolutely necesary. The professor remonstrates with much earnestness against the unwillingness of his countrymen and others to believe his statements, and those of his colleagues, regarding his singular practice. "My *novel* and *daring* mode of administering the tartar emetic," says he, "so astonishes the physicians, who, for the first time witness it in my practice, that they question the proper preparation of the medicine, or the punctuality of the patients in taking it. Some have removed their doubts by procuring a part of it, and subjecting it to chemical analysis, or administering it to their own patients, or taking it themselves, and others have become convinced by seeing my patients take it, or actually administering it with their own hands, and then waiting in vain for its usual emetic effects."

Some eminent practitioners of London, supposing that the tartarized antimony of Italy was not the same preparation as is employed in this country under the same name, have procured a quantity of the article prescribed by Rasori, which on examination, was not found to differ from that made in England. In cases of inflammation of any of the viscera of the chest, a solution of the emetic tartar was a very favourite remedy with the late Dr. Campbell and Dr. Blount, at the Hereford infirmary: but in no instance did they ever venture on a larger dose than half a grain. In that quantity it was generally administered every half hour, till it excited perspiration or nausea; and to produce the former effect, we never found it necessary to go beyond the third dose. It also generally operated on the bowels as an aperient; and to this effect and that on the skin, we attributed its beneficial influence on the inflammatory affections for which we administered it. From the facts of the pulse falling, and the heat of body decreasing, after a dose of tartarized antimony, even when it neither produces nausea, perspiration or purging, it is probable that it is, as Professor Rasori states, a direct sedative or contra-stimulant. The late Dr. Clarke cautioned his pupils against the exhibition of this remedy to weakly infants; because he had known it so far to reduce the vital powers before it manifested any emetic effect, as to endanger life. We have known a weakly child to die in an hour after the exhibition of a grain of emetic tartar, which was prescribed by a physician, who had paid or pretended to have paid, great attention to the diseases of infants. We advise our readers always to employ the emetic tartar in crystals; that sold in powder being considerably weaker, and frequently adulterated with the supertartrate of potass.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Within the last three years, we have received four communications from medical gentlemen, of the *specific* effects of the rectified oil of turpentine, on the fever following parturition, termed puerperal fever;

but the practice appearing to us to be bold, and the remedy more likely to aggravate than to remove the cause of the fever, we declined to give them a place in our journal. The fever generally resisting what we should conceive to be from its cause, judicious treatment, viz. copious bleeding, blistering, purging, warm-bath, &c. &c., and it having lately proved very fatal in the metropolis, we consider it our duty to give a case of puerperal fever, which was apparently cured by the rectified oil of turpentine; and we have pleasure in doing this, because it occurred in the practice of a cautious, observant and experienced physician,—Dr. Payne of Nottingham,—a man, whose judgment is not to be influenced by the wild theories of certain medical dreamers, or by the flowery pedantry of the incompatiblists.

"On Monday the 20th of January, 1823, I visited a married lady in this town. She complained of pains in the lower part of the abdomen, but most acute on the left side, nearly as low as the groin. The pain was much increased on pressure. There were much head-ache, urgent thirst, an intolerance of light, and great disturbance produced by the slightest noise. The pulse was 140, full and strong. There had been, just before my visit, some nausea and vomiting; I could not find that there had been any rigour, but a coldness of the lower extremities creeping up the back, had been complained of. The milk appeared on the second day after delivery (which took place at 8 o'Clock in the morning of the 15th,) and the secretion of it continued. *The lochial discharge had not been diminished since the commencement of the pain, which was first felt in the afternoon of the* 19*th*, and appeared to come on from agitation and alarm, occasioned by some words that had been spoken in her presence, relative to a subject not necessary to be mentioned here. I understand that the labour had not been lingering. It was her first accouchement; but she had miscarried between the second and third month of pregnancy four or five times: the patient is of a *delicate and phlegmatic* constitution. She had passed restless nights since her delivery, from the violence of the after pains; for which some medicines had been prescribed, supposed to be opiates. The bowels not having been opened since the 17th, and not considering the patient to be labouring under puerperal fever, which, as far as my experience goes, is preceded by a rigour, I only prescribed an opening mixture, composed of a decoction of senna and tamarinds, to which were added manna and sulphate of magnesia; an ounce and a half of which were directed to be given every two hours. Gruel was ordered for diet, and the nurse enjoined to keep the patient as still as possible.

"At seven o'Clock of the same evening, I visited the patient again. The pain had increased, and extended all over the abdomen to the back; no feeces had been discharged. A common clyster was ordered, and the mixture to be continued; only one dose had been taken at six o'Clock.

"At eight o'Clock I repeated my visit. The injection had produced two very copious motions, dark and offensive; and there was some abatement of the pain. The pulse as full as before, and 140 in the minute. As I was going out of the house, I was called back, and requested to see the patient again, as she had become suddenly worse.

She was labouring under a severe rigour; I ordered warmth to be applied to the back and legs, and the mixture to be discontinued. I then left her for an hour, expecting that, on my return, I should see a fully formed case of puerperal peritoneal inflammation.

"At nine o'Clock, much heat had succeeded the rigour; the pain greatly increased; the whole of the abdomen very tender, and rather tumid; pulse 144, and very full; *the lochial discharge was much diminished*; the secretion of milk continued. Had the patient been bled under these circumstances, there would probably have been a total suppression of the former, and an interruption of the latter. Having laid aside the use of the lancet for some years in these cases, I prescribed the following mixture;

Take of Rectified Oil of Turpentine, one ounce and a half;
Clarified Honey, two drachms;
Pure Water, two ounces.—Mix.

One third to be taken every second hour.

"I expected, as I had repeatedly experienced, that this medicine would have reduced the fever, and at the same time, would impart such a stimulus to the constitution, as would serve to sustain the vital powers; for it should be observed, that the patient, with all hor inflammatory excitement, was complaining of extreme lowness, and felt as if she were sinking, which states conjoined, are characteristic of puerperal fever.

"At five o'Clock in the morning of the 21st, I found that a mistake had been made in exhibiting the medicine; one third of the mixture was taken at twenty minutes past ten, and the whole of the remainder at twenty minutes past twelve. *I was rather pleased than otherwise at the mistake, well knowing that a speedier effect would follow.* A *pot de chambre* was nearly filled with liquid fœces, by the quick operation of the medicine. The patient looked pleasantly, saying, she felt quite relieved. The skin was bedewed with a copious perspiration; an effect which appears invariably to follow the exhibition of turpentine in cases of this description. Pulse 130, and soft; the secretion of milk and the lochial discharge continued. She felt an appetite for food, but the same diet was ordered as before. Having to travel some distance from Nottingham, I did not see her again until eight o'Clock in the evening; but left directions to repeat the medicine every two hours if the pain should return.

"At eight P. M., found the patient complaining of chilliness, and of more pain; pulse 140; some head-ache. This partial return of the complaint, was ascribed to the presence of more persons in the room than was desirable. Having felt herself much better, the patient wished to see some of her friends. I ordered the breasts to be drawn, and greater stillness to be observed. The turpentine mixture was directed to be given as before, none of it having been taken during the day.

"At eight in the morning of the 22d, learnt that the whole of the mixture had been given before one o'Clock; after which the patient slept for four hours, and awoke with an appetite for breakfast. Pulse 120; slight pain of the abdomen on pressure. Several copious stools had been passed; also much urine of a dark colour.

"At twelve at noon, found the patient going on well; pulse 116. Has taken no medicine since last night, but left directions to give it should the pain return; secretion of milk going on, lochial discharge nearly ceased.

"At four P. M. the patient complained of more pain; the seat of which was confined to the neighbourhood of the left groin. She had been troubled with piles for some years, and they were now very painful; probably irritated by the action of the turpentine on the rectum. The pulse 126; some pain in the head, and thirst; has had no motion since the last visit. One dose of the turpentine mixture was ordered to be given immediately, and another at five o'Clock; and at six o'Clock, four leeches were ordered to be applied to the piles, and the groin to be fomented.

"At eight P. M. the four leeches had relieved the piles. The bites had not bled more than one hour, the first dose of the mixture had procured two very full motions. The second dose was rejected by vomiting, the pulse 118; skin cool, some pain in the head, probably occasioned by the turpentine, which may perhaps produce a determination to that part. Milk porridge was ordered for diet, in addition to gruel; The breasts had been drawn, and the secretion of milk was copious. Ordered the nurse to foment the abdomen, for an hour, and the medicine to be discontinued. Lochial discharge very slight, and colourless.

"January, 23rd. At eight A. M. found the patient complaining of uneasiness, and pain of the bowels, occasioned, as she thought, by distension from wind. She had slept well; the pain at the groin was much abated; pulse 118. Two pills, consisting of five grains of extract of bitter apple, and five grains of the blue pill, were ordered to be taken immediately; and in two hours after one ounce and a half of the cathartic mixture, which had been prescribed at my first visit. The dose was ordered to be repeated in two hours; There had been one copious evacuation from the bowels in the night.

"At five, P. M., I learnt that after taking the pills at eight in the morning, the patient fell asleep, and slept until one in the afternoon, consequently, the last dose of the cathartic decoction was not taken until four P. M.,—she complained of great debility. The pain and uneasiness of the abdomen were entirely gone: She had had one motion, with a considerable degree of flatulence, appetite improving, and she takes with a relish arrow root, tapioca, and milk porridge, alternately. Abundant secretion of milk; lochial discharge very trifling,—pulse 114. Ordered the mixture to be discontinued. At nine in the evening, found the patient continuing to improve,—pulse 108, much weakness is still felt; appetite good.

"On my return from a ride into the country, in the afternoon of the 24th, I learnt that a person had called, to request my attendance on the lady as soon as possible. I had seen her in the morning, and found her going on well, although she had not passed a very good night.

"At five P. M. I understood there had been considerable pain in the head, and some tendency to delirium. In order to discover if the turpentine had any share in producing this affection, I made par-

ticular inquiry as to any circumstance that might have arisen to create uneasiness of mind, and ascertained that she had been, on the preceding evening, indulging too freely in conversation on a subject that was distressing to her. Having therefore no doubt, as to the cause of the disturbed state of the head, I prescribed ice and water to be applied to the forehead, and a dose of the cathartic decoction every two hours, until my next visit. The abdominal pain being entirely removed, some practitioners, on seeing approaching tendency to delirium, might suppose there was going to take place a translation to the brain; and being in the habit of seeing my puerperal patients recover under the use of the turpentine, I felt confident that these unpleasant symptoms would quickly be removed by the application of cold to the forehead.

"At nine, P. M. found the patient in a profuse perspiration. The cold applied to the head gave great relief, and she requested the constant application of the ice and water; pulse 108. Bowels had been well opened; ordered that in future more attention should be observed to keep the patient quiet.

"On the 25th, I saw the patient twice. She made no complaint. The cathartic mixture was recommended to be taken occasionally,—has had but one stool. Prescribed four grains of calomel, and three of antimonial powder, to be taken at bed time, and four scruples of compound powder of Jalap, early in the morning.

"In the evening of the 26th, the patient complained of pain of the left side of the abdomen, near the groin; pulse 102; tongue clean; skin cool; appetite good. The pill and powder had procured several motions, which looked healthy. She asked my consent to apply some leeches to the part affected with pain, to which request I did not object. It appeared that the patient had received an injury on the left groin and hip, a week or two before her accouchement. She was thrown down when walking, with considerable violence, by a man who was running in the street, and the part was severely bruised. She did not put herself under medical care at that time, nor was she bled; but a female friend advised leeches, which, however, were not employed; and it was owing to their having been recommended which induced her to request their application now. Local bleeding was therefore particularly indicated, and four leeches were directed to be placed on the part affected with pain. One drachm of a saline powder, consisting of one part of cream of tartar, one of nitre, and two parts of gum tragacanth and of sugar, was also prescribed every four hours.

"On the 27th the four leeches had been applied, and there was a considerable discharge of dark coloured blood. She slept well; appetite good; weak broth allowed; pulse 98; no stool since yesterday afternoon; ordered to take half an ounce of castor oil, and to repeat the dose at three in the afternoon, if the bowels should not be opened before.

"January 28th. Only one dose of oil was found necessary yesterday. She has taken about two drachms of it this morning, which have procured one natural stool. The lochial discharge, which had nearly ceased, *but never entirely so*, appeared in greater abundance in the

course of the night: pulse 96; is free of pain; appetite good. I prescribed a box of opening pills, consisting of extract of colocynth, half a drachm; powdered rhubarb, one scruple; Castile soap and blue pill, of each five grains—divided into twelve pills, two of which were directed to be given at bed time occasionally. The saline powder, and all other medicines, to be discontinued.

"Finding the patient, on the 29th, in a progressive state of amendment, and the pills agreeing well, I proposed discontinuing my attendance. On the 31st, I called on the patient, found her doing well, she having sat up the most part of yesterday.

"In the above case of puerperal fever, it will be seen, (says Dr. Payne,) that the rectified oil of turpentine was given *immediately* on the invasion of the disease, and that it was the *only* antiphlogistic remedy that was relied on for the removal of it; the inflammatory symptoms, moreover, being subdued by that potent medicine in the course of a few hours!"

The doctor adds, "Puerperal fever has prevailed in Nottingham, and its neighbourhood, during the last winter; and there were several cases reported to have terminated fatally. At that period, a considerable number of patients with the complaint, and also three under the influence of puerperal mania, fell under my care. Not any of those who were ill of the former disease, to whom I was called, were bled, either generally or topically, and every one of them recovered. *Augmenting intestinal secretion* appeared very speedily to arrest the complaint in every instance. From four to six leeches were applied to the temples of those affected with *puerperal mania*; also blisters to the scalp, and cold applications to the forehead; mustard poultices to the lower extremities, and cathartic clysters were also employed. The medicines given internally, were calomel with antimony, camphor mixture with Mendererus's spirit, &c. All those affected with this disease, whom I attended, also recovered.

"As far as my experience goes, abstraction of blood in puerperal mania is quite inadmissible. I never knew a patient, whose case fell under my own observation, recover, who was subjected to that mode of treatment. The surgeons who were in attendance on two of the cases of puerperal mania, had very judiciously applied a few leeches to the temples, thinking thereby to remove a congested and overloaded state of the vessels of the brain, that might occur from *vascular* action, violently exerted, forcing more than the usual quantity of blood to that organ.

"It may be proper to state, in conclusion, that many of those who have survived the late puerperal epidemic, and who were bled freely, are reported to enjoy but an indifferent state of health. A patient who resides in this town, and who, from her statement, appears to have lost an enormous quantity of blood, in consequence of an inflammatory puerperal attack, fourteen weeks ago, is now under my care. *She* ascribes her present indisposition to the repeated full bleedings with which she was then treated. She is now in a state of great debility; the countenance very pallid, with much languor, great emaciation, and the lower extremities edematous. I have advised a residence in the country, hoping that the constant exposure to pure

air may improve the digestive powers of the stomach, and *incite* it to take more nourishment.

"I have had an opportunity of seeing several patients who were treated with the turpentine, and they uniformly enjoy vigorous health. The lady whose case is given above, and in whom the disease may be said to have been sporadic, is again pregnant, after having suckled her child nine months. The cases of puerperal fever that have occurred to me since, have partaken of an epidemic character; but, to the best of my knowledge, neither the disease nor the remedy which removed it, have left behind them any cause of complaint."

According to the doctor's experience, the rectified oil of turpentine possesses the power of "subduing puerperal fever, and at the same time of imparting a *stimulus* to the vital powers." It appears then, that although the peritoneum is in a state of active inflammation, the heart beating with increased force, and the brain disturbed by the increased influx of blood, that the fever, or the inflammation of the peritoneum, is "*on its first invasion*," a disease of debility. The patient whose case Dr. Payne has given in detail, was of a weak, phlegmatic habit; and on such patients, when affected with inflammatory fever, the terebinthinate stimulants often act beneficially, especially when they increase the secretions of the skin and kidneys. We are sorry Dr. Payne has not attempted to account for so powerful a stimulus as that of the rectified oil of turpentine, in allaying inflammatory fever and extensive inflammation of the membrane covering the organ in which it is introduced, although it inflame the gullet and irritate the stomach so as to disturb the brain, by occasioning a determination of blood to it. Are we to suppose, with Professor Rasori, that the condition of the system is so altered or affected by different diseases, that medicines will produce different effects on it? The beneficial influence of oil of turpentine in cases of puerperal fever, appears to be secondary; for, in general, if not always, the patient, almost immediately after taking the first dose, complains of an increase of fever and pain in the head and abdomen, from its primary operation on the gullet and stomach. Do its beneficial effects arise from its action on the intestinal canal, by increasing its internal secretion, and thereby unloading the vessels of the peritoneal covering; or does it, by invigorating the vessels of the inflamed membrane, enable them to get rid of their over-load, and thereby remove the cause of the fever; or are we to attribute its effects to its increasing the secretion of the kidneys or skin, or the lochial discharge, or from any peculiar action on membranous inflammation, as observed from the terebenthinate medicines; as the balsam capaiva and rectified oil of turpentine, in cases of inflammation of the membranous lining of the windpipe, or of the urethra?

The celebrated Dr. Hunter found the rectified oil of turpentine beneficial in cases of active hæmorrhage from the kidneys, bladder, and lungs; and, in those cases, to allay local irritation and inflammatory action. In a case of hæmorrhage from the stomach (hæmatemesis), it appeared, from its primary stimulating effects on the vessels of the stomach, to increase the discharge of blood. It is only through the medium of the circulation that it has acted as a styptic, or a sedative;

and the latter effect on membranes which secrete a mucus, is often very remarkable, although the part is in a state of considerable inflammation.

Dr. Payne will probably attribute its salutary influence on puerperal fever, not to one, but to all its effects on the body. Be this as it may, the first exhibition of such a powerful stimulus, in a case of fever, accompanied with extensive internal inflammation, was so bold a practice, that we are desirous to be acquainted with the reason of the practitioner who first administered, for having employed it.

MORPHIA.

SIRS,—I should accuse myself of ingratitude towards morphia, if, after the essential benefit I have derived from it in an accidental injury of the tendinous fascia of my right arm from bleeding, I were not voluntarily to step forward as an advocate for its sedative, depressing, narcotic, paregoric, anodyne, or, in a word, contra-stimulating property. It is not a question in the administration of the product or educt of opium, termed *morphia*, as in that opium to calculate *à priori* (I do not know upon what grounds) with Mr. Thompson and all the pharmaceutical conspectus makers, what dose will calm or depress—what will increase the vital powers or exhilarate the mind; nor patiently to wait with Dr. Armstrong to see, *a posteriori*, what state of a subacute inflammation might be reduced by an *indirect* sedative action, or rather aggravated by a *direct* stimulating one;—it is not a question, with regard to the property of morphia, as with cubebs, or balsam of copaiba, where and when it might exercise a *secondary* sedative action after having stimulated the stomach and bowels; nor if it will pass off insensibly, or occasion a debilitating nausea, or disorder the intestines, as the Spanish fly plaster, taken by accident, has irritated, or even inflamed the kidneys, bladder, &c.; for morphia, even after the smallest dose which is allowed, by the gastric juices to produce a *sensible* effect in an adult, far from developing the slightest symptom of an *increased* excitement, directly displays its action by a gradual diminution of frequency, fullness and hardness of the pulse, a more slow respiration, a reduction of muscular power and sensibility, and induces an irresistible dull sleep, followed by corporeal and mental debility, in proportion to the quantity taken, and other circumstances. At the greatest extent to which it may be safely administered, morphia does not excite that transitory illusion, the usual effect of stimulation, which shews itself soon after swallowing a full dose of the diluted Prussic, sulphuric, nitric, or muriatic acid, under the sensation of a distressing nausea, or spasmodic contractions of the alimentary canal, accompanied sometimes by griping pains and irregular action of the heart and arteries. I do not mention these circumstances to revive the subject of Dr. Edwards's *vis medicatrix naturæ*, for I do not know if on this occasion the vomiting which follows an extra dose of either of those potent articles, should be called *destructrix*, rather than *medicatrix*, as the muscular contractions which take place, in cases of dislocated or fractured bones, &c.; but only to remark that it seems rather the effect of a sudden and more extensive operation of the

contra-stimulating articles in a fluid state. In fact, the strongest dose of a watery solution of the acetate of morphia which may be safely administered, has a tendency to produce the same disturbance, though it appears to exceed the dry morphia in rapidity more than in intensity of action. In my case, not a less quantity than a grain and a half of morphia was found necessary to allay the excruciating pain of the arm; and in fact, after the ordinary symptoms, it produced a profound heavy sleep. A repetition of the same dose on the following morning, was soon followed by refreshing sleep, a reduction of the inflammation of the arm, and an apparent mitigation of a threatening inflammation of the lungs; I say apparent, because it was necessary to have recourse to humoral depletions to subdue effectually the general disease. This will be a caution to those young practitioners who are infatuated by the new contra-stimulating doctrines of the medical school of Italy, and who are apt to be misled by the diminution or suspension of an inflammatory disease, so as to neglect the timely application of the Sydenhemian praxis when *latet anguis in herba.*

Meanwhile, among the many direct contra-stimulants which have been discovered, I am disposed to give preference to morphia, or its acetate, as much less dangerous in irritable or morbidly sensible constitutions than to prussic acid, and unquestionably much more active than any other article: at any state, it does not, like opium, act by a difference of powers. I should begin with half a grain of morphia, or the acetate of morphia, in mild cases, when the object is to calm trifling pains, or to procure refreshing sleep. Where the pain is severe, as after surgical operations, or accidents, a grain may be given, and from a grain and a half in cases of injury of a tendinous fascia, or rigidity of the mouth of the uterus in parturition: locked jaw, from injury, and other analogous occurrences, may require a larger dose. But when I speak of morphia, or acetate of morphia, let it be understood that I do not speak of the article termed morphium by Mr. Batley, or what might result from its combination with acetic acid, but of the *pure* and *genuine* morphia and acetate, as prepared by a skilful chemist; for otherwise I should not be surprised to hear of some other *morphium*, more fit to appear among dietetical than medical articles. But, though defending the contra-stimulating power of morphia and its acetate, I should not, perhaps, be equally disposed to support the same after a long use of *gradually* increased doses of the article, particularly if properly diluted.

It is not, in these times, necessary to have recourse to the old king of Pontus, to ascertain that the strongest poisons may, by a *gradual*, cautious use, become inoffensive (and the generality of poisons, in a full dose, when not caustic, act as direct contra-stimulants); it is not necessary to have recourse to the experiment of the Turk, who made, some years since, a great noise on the Continent, for having, by degrees, accustomed his stomach to the action of corrosive sublimate—who was not comfortable till he had taken his daily dose (a drachm) of that delicious luxury. I conclude no professional man will deny the contra-stimulating power of a strong dose of that article, though small doses often have a contrary effect. Tobacco becomes, by degrees, a comfort to the Dutch and English seaman; and the latter uses it occasionally

to deceive the surgeon, by disordering the stomach and interrupting the action of the heart. A spirit strongly impregnated with the essential oil of the cherry laurel, instead of intoxicating, when gradually used, increases the action of the heart and the muscular power beyond description, &c. And many other analogous cases tend clearly to shew the uncertain limits between stimulating and contra-stimulating powers; and they may account for the apparently bold proposition that, notwithstanding the relative differences of effects, the absolute *modus agendi* of both powers are perhaps the same.

But before I adopt this conclusion, a great deal remains to be done in comparative anatomy and physiology; a great deal in comparative therapeutics. Being a friend to science, and to practical medicine in particular, and a decided enemy to imposture, I cannot but subscribe myself your sincere friend,

BARTH. DE SANCTIS, M. D.
of the University, and Licentiate of the
London, July 12, 1824. *College of Physicians of London.*

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

SCROFULA.

In a lecture lately delivered at St. Thomas's Hospital by Sir Astley Cooper, baronet and surgeon, the learned gentleman, in his usual emphatical manner, observed, that the *appellation* of scrofula at present used by surgeons, is "a *miserable title* for the diseases which it is intended to represent"!! It is (said he) a *class* of diseases *springing* from debility. If asked what scrofula is, (observed the Baronet, raising his right arm) I should say, that in its *character* AND *origin* it is *debility!!* that the disease as it proceeds, becomes inflammatory, but that it is connected with original or congenital weakness, and derives a *peculiar* character on account of its arising from this source. You will find (continued the *learned* Baronet,) that scrofulous *diseases* are *inflammatory*, that they undergo all the different processes of inflammation; viz. the adhesive, suppurative, ulcerative, and gangrenous. These four processes are thus (said he) the *effect* of *scrofulous* diseases, but they are *imperfectly* performed!! The adhesion is not firm, because blood-vessels do not enter the scrofulous curd-like *matter* which effects it!! The suppuration is not of the *common* kind; it contains curd-like matter, and is not *truly* purulent"!!!

Scrofula the observant Baronet has ascertained to be *extremely rare* after the body has ceased to grow; but when the body has attained its full growth, *chronic* inflammation from intemperance often takes place in the synovial membrane of joints!! The *thickness* of the lip is "a proof of debility."!! The disease springing from debility, the learned Baronet recommend an animal diet; and emphatically observed, "I cannot *sufficiently* deprecate a *vegetable* diet." Dr. Lambe, an eminent physician of London, in a late publication, recommends the adoption of a vegetable diet as the most effectual means of correcting the scrofulous diathesis.!! "Not liking the stomach of scrofulous children to be *overloaded* with milk at breakfast," he recommended meat and

eggs to be taken for this meal!!! "The treatment of scrofula (he observed) should be *founded* on three PRINCIPLES.—*1stly*. To make *better* blood. *2ndly*. To *strengthen* the *solids*. And *3rdly*. To *give vigorous* action to the circulation" (!!!) Next to diet, in regard to importance, the learned baronet considered exercise.

"Children (said he), with scrofulous affections, or even those predisposed to them, should take a great deal of exercise, in the open air; more, however, in the way of play than as a task; and here I must say that I am anxious that those concerned in the education of youth, particularly female instructors, should be acquainted with what I have said on this important subject. I wish them to know what food and exercise should be allowed to children with a scrofulous taint; and how much the future happiness of those intrusted to their care is dependant on an attention to these particulars. At schools in general too little exercise is taken by the scholars.—Boys, however, will have it; but not so with the girls; they are frequently compelled to *sit* from morning till night engaged in learning music, *dancing*, geography, French, nay, even Italian, and God knows what else, without paying the slightest attention to the preservation of their health, and thus impairing constitutions which might have been rendered strong and robust. It is not *my* wish to discourage the cultivation of the human mind, in *any* degree, nor *even* to prevent the *fairer* sex from attaining those accomplishments which so frequently render it the *grace*, *life*, and *ornament* of society; but I think it the extreme of folly in compelling children to pass hours over pursuits for which they have no taste, such as making them learn music when they have *no ear*; while their health is neglected, and constitutions are ruined by the confinement to which they are subjected. The mischiefs thus arising from the false system of education at present pursued in this country, so frequently come before my notice, that I wish what I have said to be generally known, in order that future misery may be prevented and the *physical* education of our youth be better directed. Exercise should not be taken so as to fatigue the body; when children felt themselves weary they should rest a little till they recover. When the state of the weather prevents them from taking exercise in the open air, they should play in a large airy chamber, and be allowed to dance in the evenings, taking care that the perspiration excited should not be checked by any improper means, as is too often done with thoughtless and giddy children, and by this means they will be brought up with constitutions invigorated so as to ward off the attacks of a disease to which they were pre-disposed. I do not exaggerate when I say, that within this last year I have seen five hundred cases of scrofulous affections; never a day passes over my head without my seeing a case, and frequently three or four. This very day I have seen more, and if asked how many were boys among them, I should answer not one. What is the reason of it?—why, boys will take exercise, and thus are less liable to the complaint: whilst girls are not allowed, and if pre-disposed to it are almost always attacked by it."

After the subject of diet, the learned Baronet entered on the consideration of air. "Without *good* air (said he) all other means are of *no* use. *Moist* and *cold* weather is the worst. Those who live in

marshy climates are subject to the worst form of scrofulous complaints. The state of the atmosphere you should choose, is that in which the air is dry and warm; a very bleak wind is not desirable. The sea air is generally preferred, and when the children are near the sea side, they should be allowed to play on the beach the greater part of the day. It is a mistake to suppose that the air of the coast in the wet and cold seasons is of any advantage to scrofulous children; it is only in warm and dry weather, that any benefit will be obtained. *Extreme* cold suppresses the progress of scrofulous complaints, but in moist weather the symptoms return. Unfortunately, continued the baronet, I have experienced in *my own* family the *dreadful* ravages of this complaint; although *no one* would say that I *was* a scrofulous subject (a laugh). I have lost five near relatives of the complaint from which I have been spared. Whilst at Brighton once on a professional visit, I inquired if the number of scrofulous children was as great there as in other parts, and I found that it was. In the latter part of the spring and autumn, the sea-coast is desirable; but in cold weather it is not. The bleakness of the air of the sea shore is unfavourable to the constitutions of children *tainted* with scrofulous complaints.—Air, exercise, and nourishment, are the *three* great points to be kept in view in the treatment of scrofulous affection."

The learned Baronet being very laconic on the medical treatment of scrofula, we shall not condense it.

"Gentlemen, you may lay it down as an axiom, that there is no specific for the cure of scrofula; and he who says that there is, attempts to *gull mankind by the assertion of what is not true!!!* Medicines occasionally given with a view to improve the digestive powers, and regulate the secretions, are good; but attention to the three points I have just mentioned, are of primary importance. I will mention to you what are the best; once a week, or every ten days, two grains of calomel and eight of rhubarb, in order to restore the secretions. This relieves scrofulous inflammation, on the same principle as all other inflammations are relieved. A good medicine to be given daily for a short time is, the rhubarb and steel—two grains of rhubarb, and from three to five of the carbonate of iron. This is a very good tonic. Another good tonic consists of two grains of rhubarb, and from four to six grains of dried subcarbonate of soda, with ten grains of calumba, which may be taken mixed with sugar, a form that seldom disagrees with the patient. These means will greatly assist the powers of digestion. One of the remedies which we use in the other hospital (Guy's) are infusion of *camomile flowers*, with a few grains of *mercury, with chalk*, at bed time. Or the *Oxymuriate* of mercury, in the proportion of a grain to two ounces of the *tincture of bark;* a tea-spoonful of which should be taken twice a-day, in a glass of the *camomile infusion*. If the bowels are costive, *tincture of rhubarb* should be substituted for the *tincture of bark*. !! The *liquor* of potass is a medicine also used. These different medicines, medical men use in different ways; those I employ are the *steel*, with *rhubarb and calomel*, and the *subcarbonate of soda*, with *rhubarb and calumba*. A great deal of care should be taken of children, originally formed weak; you should excite no feverish action on the one hand, nor do

any thing to debilitate the constitution on the other. These are the Scylla and Charybdis, into which we may fall—that of exciting fever on the one hand, and weakness on the other; and recollect, above all, the three principles of treatment which I have so often laid down."

The learned Baronet concluded his lecture to his wondering class with the following observations on cloathing and bathing.

"Children should be well clothed, and never exposed to changes of temperature. For this purpose, they should wear flannel close to the skin; and in this case it should be worn also during the night. If the weather be very warm, calico may be substituted for flannel. The great object is to preserve an equal temperature of the skin, and not to *produce* perspiration, because that would debilitate!! It is right to recommend sea-bathing; the bath should be taken about three times a week, at eleven in the morning. The temperature of the bath should be at 94°; the person should remain from sixteen to twenty minutes in it, and walk afterwards.—Some children are exceedingly frightened at the sight of the water used in the commencement; and, in those cases, it will be advantageous to sprinkle the body over first with tepid salt water. This will gradually remove the child's fear of the water, and prepare the way for the sea-bathing."

After reading the foregoing imposing exhibition of theoretical and practical knowledge of scrofula, a disease which destroys a tenth part of the natives of this country, a practitioner acquainted with ancient or modern routine medicine, will not deny that the healing art has been greatly improved within the last century, and that by the moderns it is conducted on *scientific* principles. Some of our readers will no doubt exclaim, To whom is the public to look for *valuable practical* information and sound reason, if not to a general practitioner, as Sir Astley Cooper, who has held the appointment of surgeon to a large hospital in London about a quarter of a century, who has for that period been extensively engaged in private practice, and who has moreover removed a tumour from a monarch's head!

We know of no writer, either ancient or modern, or regular or irregular practitioner, who has employed the term *scrofula* as a *class* of diseases; nor do we know only one disease to which the name is applied, and that as a *genus*. In the Borough hospitals, which, as a school for physic and surgery, has for some years been on the decline, Sir Astley Cooper, and his observant relative, Mr. Green, have probably been induced to pay such extra attention to scrofulous affections, in consequence of the alarm its dreadful ravages in five near relatives have excited in the far-famed Cooper family,—although the Baronet himself is not a scrofulous subject,—that the local affections, which in consequence of difference of structure or organization of the part, exhibit different appearances, are deemed worthy of being introduced into their new nosology as an *order* of a *class* denominated scrofula.

The idea that scrofula is a disease of debility, has for some centuries been entertained by surgeons; and we have no hesitation in saying that the doctrine has been productive of most serious mischief, by inducing young or inexperienced practitioners to prescribe tonic medicines and a nutritious diet in all cases of the disease, without regard to the stage. That scrofula is an hereditary disease, no practitioner of ex-

perience and in possession of the faculty of observation will deny; but that scrofulous children are in a state of *debility* when they are born, or, as Sir Astley Cooper asserts, the debility is congenital and original, we deny; for it is common for the children of scrofulous parents to be particularly strong and healthy when born, and to continue in that state for some years. The disease, during spring and autumn, also very frequently takes place either in the glands of the neck, lungs, or a joint, when the patient is in possession of robust health, or in the language of Dr. James Johnson, in *robuster* health than usual; and symptoms of debility do not appear until the general health has suffered by it. When the subject is healthy and the sanguiferous system overloaded, (a common attendant) what will be the effect of tonic medicines, and a generous diet, adopted under the idea of the disease having sprung from debility? Will not such a treatment, by keeping up plethora, and increasing the action of the heart and arteries, accelerate the suppurative process; and when it is seated in a vital part, as the lungs, will it not hasten its fatal termination? So injurious has this doctrine of debility proved in this country, that we have no hesitation in saying that there is not a medical man who has held the appointment of physician to a provincial hospital five years, who has not met with hundreds of cases in which it has hurried on the disease to an incurable stage.

With respect to the proper diet for scrofulous subjects, (which in a country like England, where there is scarcely a family not entirely free from it, or what Sir A. Cooper terms a "scrofulous taint," is a subject of great importance,) a very trifling difference of opinion exists between Dr. Lambe, a physician of great experience, minute observation, and scientific attainments, and Sir Astley Cooper, baronet and surgeon—the former highly extolling a vegetable diet as the only means of correcting the "scrofulous taint," and rendering it dormant, or, when it has taken place, of subduing it, and as warmly condemning animal food; whilst the latter emphatically declares that he cannot too strongly condemn a vegetable diet, and highly extols that of animal food. Sir Astley even condescends to acquaint his pupils with the "principles" on which he recommends it; viz. 1stly, to make *good* blood; 2ndly, to strengthen the solids; and 3rdly, to give *vigorous* action to the circulation. When such great men differ in the dietetic management of a disease, of which they have been in the habit of seeing several cases every day for the last 25 years, who dare to give an opinion? Let us put these *great* authorities out of the question, and leave the decision to experience and common sense. Is there a physician of a provincial hospital who has not witnessed the good effects of a strict vegetable diet in scrofula? We might here enumerate many cases of subjects whose lives were endangered by scrofulous affections of the lungs, joints, and glands of the neck, who are now enjoying perfect health in consequence of having strictly confined their diet to vegetable productions, and who we are certain, had they followed the advice of some of their medical advisers, viz. of living on animal food and taking a glass or two of wine after dinner, would many years since have been inhabitants of another world. Now what says common sense? If the disease be inflammatory, which, in its first stage,

it doubtless is, is not a vegetable diet, by keeping the system quiet, more likely to prevent its coming into action; and when it has taken place, is it not likely to check its progress? With respect to the three grand "principles" on which Sir A. Cooper enforces the propriety of an animal diet, we beg to ask why the blood from animal food should be better than that from vegetable food? Good blood, as he terms it, is dependant on the production of good chyle, or rather on the proper digestion of the food; and it has been most satisfactorily ascertained that the chyle from properly digested vegetables is as *good*, as that from properly digested animal food; and certain it is that the blood of an animal who has lived on vegetables, as the horse or cow, is as good or as rich as that of the animal who has lived entirely on animal food, viz. the dog. Man (who is no doubt a vegeto-carniverous animal), when confined to animal food, becoming plethoric, heavy, and predisposed to inflammatory action, such a diet to a scrofulous subject, common sense says, is highly improper. Although destined to derive his support from the animal and vegetable kingdoms, in case of "a scrofulous taint," a vegetable diet is necessary to keep the system below par, and thereby prevent the disease coming into action; and it is a fact, that where a person has been accustomed to a vegetable diet many years, he will derive as much substantial nourishment from it as another will from meat; that is, he will possess as much muscular power as the latter, and at the same time will be less susceptible of inflammatory action.

With respect to the learned Baronet's second grand "*principle*," viz. "strengthening the solids," it is really too ludicrous to notice, for surely every person must be aware that the solids are dependant on the blood for their support.

As to the third grand "*principle*,"—"to give vigorous action to the circulation," in cases of scrofulous affection of the lungs, joints, mesenteric glands, or of bones, the object of practice with experienced physicians, is to check the inflammatory action, so as to prevent suppuration or structural mischief; and is this likely to be effected by invigorating the circulation? Common sense says, in such cases reduce the action of the heart and arteries, so as to diminish the circulation of the blood through the diseased parts; and long experience says, that by invigorating the circulation, the disease in the lungs and mesenteric glands is hurried to a stage which will terminate life, even in the Borough hospital, where the patients have the great benefit of the learned Baronet's three grand principles—under his immediate superintendance.

The observant Baronet has discovered that the adhesion which takes place from scrofulous inflammation, is not *firm*, because blood-vessels do not shoot through the curd-like scrofulous matter by which the union is effected!! This scrofulous matter, he says, is not "*truly* purulent," but the consequence of an *imperfect* suppuration from debility, not from any peculiarity or specific nature of the disease, and yet he says the constitution is tainted!! This is indeed consistent reasoning, and the publication of his peculiar opinions will no doubt tend to raise the reputation of the Borough school in the opinion of the learned physiologists and surgeons of Europe. Was ever adhesion

effected by scrofulous pus, or any other pus? There was never an instance of adhesion of surfaces with a purulent discharge, and the idea of vessels shooting through pus, scrofulous or simple, is ridiculous in the extreme. Adhesion forms in consequence of a secretion of *lymph*, through which blood-vessels shoot, and the adhesions from scrofulous inflammation, as of joints, and of the pleura *costalis* and pulmonalis, remain firm and quiescent for many years, indeed in general during the life-time of the patient.

With respect to the assertion that scrofula *rarely* occurs in adults, and that adults are subject to *chronic* inflammation from *intemperance* and not "scrofulous taint," we beg to ask the observant Baronet how many thousands of adults die in this country annually of scrofulous affections of the lungs, bowels, or joints? indeed, is there, most learned Baronet, a disease more prevalent among adults than scrofula? As to *chronic* inflammation, which is probably always scrofulous, it occurs among people who have not the means of indulging in intemperance, and who live abstemiously. It is true young females are more frequently the victims of scrofula than boys, but not in consequence of taking less exercise; for it has been observed by schoolmasters, that the boys who take the most exercise are most subject to the disease, the violence of exercise bringing the disease into action; but of the changes which take place, or the new sympathies which form between the stomach, mammary glands, and uterus, when the female has arrived to the period of puberty, which disturb the general health, and bring the disease into action. Many thousands of females die annually in this country of diseased lungs, in consequence of the uterus not performing its monthly office, or what is termed green sickness; and this indolent condition of the organ is generally induced by costiveness, by retarding the circulation of the blood in the abdominal viscera, and preventing a proper determination of it to the uterus.

The Baronet's assertion, that the object of a person who recommends a *specific* for scrofula, is to gull mankind by a falsehood, is as inconsistent as it is liberal or ignorant. He allows that there is a scrofulous taint, and that scrofula is a *specific* disease; and yet has the impudence to assert, that the person who recommends a *specific* remedy is an impostor!! This is indeed very complimentary to those practitioners of England, Italy, and France, who have spoken of the anti-scrofulous property of iodine, many of whom rank a little higher, as physicians, surgeons, and physiologists, in the opinion of competent judges, than the learned Baronet himself. The Baronet, we must do him the justice to say, has only employed the language of all routine practitioners. The same was said of syphilis, before the antisyphilitic power of mercury was discovered. Of iodine, the philosophical Baronet did not condescend to speak. Iodine has certainly failed, in the practice of *some* physicians and narrow-minded surgeons, to exhibit any thing like specific effect on scrofulous affections; but we have reason to believe that the article which had been administered, was not genuine, and that the patients were not prepared for its exhibition; besides, scrofula varies much in inveteracy; in some subjects it runs so high, or its action is so extensive, that, to produce any beneficial impression on it, the remedy should be continued many months.

We have known a physician abandon its use, because it did not produce a salutary effect in a fortnight!! Dr. Coindet and Dr. Kolley, physicians of great eminence, have lately published several cases of scrofula in various forms, in which iodine, properly exhibited (after putting the digestive organs, and the sanguiferous system, in a proper state) so as to produce what the former terms *Iodization* of the constitution; a term which every experienced and observant practitioner will understand; and to effect it, different doses, and even different auxiliaries are requisite in different constitutions. Dr. Duncan, jun. of Edinburgh, in whose reports the profession of this country very justly place the most implicit confidence, speaking of iodine, observes, in the last number of his scientific and independent Journal, "We have ourselves witnessed several very good cures of scrofulous glands under its use, but in most of them suppuration took place; and it may be doubted," says he, "whether the iodine exercised its effects on the absorbent system, or enabled the organic vessels of the glands to assume a suppurative action of a more healthy character." When the suppurative process has commenced in a scrofulous gland, a dispersion of the tumefaction is too much to expect from iodine; but the facts of the matter becoming healthy, and the ulcer kindly granulating and healing after the exhibition of iodine, which we have often witnessed, are to us an evidence most decisive of its specific effects on the disease. Another circumstance corroborative of the antiscrofulous powers of iodine is, that when administered during the winter, the disease does not take place in the spring, even in subjects strongly predisposed to it; or, as Sir Astley Cooper would observe, in whom the taint is strong. The remedies recommended by Sir Astley Cooper are those of the routine legitimate physicians, who disregard all discoveries that do not originate with themselves. The oxymuriate of mercury, steel, and liquor of potass, are the common routine remedies of the last century; and these, as well as the diet of animal food, &c. the learned Baronet recommended, without pointing out the different stages of the disease to which, in his opinion, they are applicable. The disease "springing from debility," (as he and routine practitioners in general imagine), steel is his favourite remedy; now, in the first stage of scrofula, will an experienced physician say that steel is a proper medicine? Will it not, in fact, aggravate the disease, by increasing the inflammatory disposition of the body? After suppuration has taken place, when the general health has been much reduced by a continuance of the disease, and the constitution become phlegmatic, we have known steel to prove very beneficial; and it is, in our opinion, admissible only under such circumstances. That the sea air is a powerful auxiliary to iodine, in correcting the scofulous diathesis, must be admitted; and we have no hesitation in saying its salutary influence is as evident during winter, as any other period of the year. The treatment of scrofula, both in regard to diet and medicine, must depend on the general state of the constitution; and, in all cases, it should be prepared for the exhibition of iodine.

We shall, in future, introduce in each number, one of the Baronet's lectures, with practical remarks and Abernethian annotations, until we have gone through his course.

THE GOUTY HABIT.

A beneficed Clergyman, who for some years studied medicine with the intention of taking the degree of M. D., requests us to give an epitome of an account he has sent us of the means he adopted (with complete success) to effect such a change in his constitution, as to destroy what he terms the seeds of Gout.

He was not only the son of gouty parents, but merited gout from the dissipated life he had led chiefly at an English University.—At the age of thirty, after experiencing for eight years flying gouty pains, and at times considerable nervous excitement of brain, &c. he was attacked violently by a paroxysm of gout, first in the feet, and afterwards in the hands.—The pain, excruciating as it was, for some time he bore with stoical philosophy. On a recurrence of a paroxysm, which happened the following year, his philosophy failing him, he took two drachms of the ammoniated tincture of colchicum seeds, in a wine-glassful of camphorated julep, which subdued the inflammation and pain in a few hours; and by continuing this medicine twice a day for a week, he thought he had *cured* the disease. It, however, recurring in the course of three months, in consequence of having taken freely of claret and other French wines, he had recourse to the same medicine, with the same results, and in this manner he went on for sixteen months, when he discovered that he had converted by means of the medicine, *regular* into *irregular* gout, that he was becoming indolent and corpulent, and much subject to indigestion, and a determination of blood to the head. Being convinced that if he persisted in this mode of treatment many months longer, some serious mischief would take place either in his stomach, chest, or head, he determined to make a bold attempt to destroy the "gouty condition of his habit," by effecting a complete revolution in it. A paroxysm of *regular* gout he dreaded; and as to the indigestion, flying pains, and hypochondriacal feelings, unrefreshing demi-sleep, attendant on *irregular* gout, they rendered life so intolerable, that he would "run any risk" to get rid of the enemy.

After reflecting on the advice his late friend, Dr. Pitcarn, gave an epileptic patient, to effect a thorough change in his constitution by a different mode of living, he concluded that such a treatment, with the occasional cautious employment of medicines (constitutional and topical) which were known to allay gouty irritation, might succeed in correcting or removing the state of the nervous system and viscera of the belly, which favours gouty action, and which, in his opinion, constituted the gouty diathesis. Supposing that the use of flannel next the skin (from which he had fancied he had derived great benefit) had the effect of keeping the system tender, and rendering it more susceptible of atmospherical changes, he gradually left off his flannel shirt and drawers, and worsted stockings, and substituted those of calico; and by degrees he succeeded in accustoming his body to the action of cold by commencing with a tepid bath, and gradually decreasing the temperature till he reduced it nearly to the freezing point. To continue this treatment, he says, required all the resolution he could muster. He substituted a mattrass for a soft feather bed, which also required all his philosophy. When gouty irritation took place in the extre-

mities, (it had never attacked an internal part) he immediately had recourse to *hard* friction, by the pommelling hammer, as recommended in an early Number by Admiral Henry. Instead of walking slowly, and giving way to feelings of relaxation and debility, he gradually took to active walking, and afterwards to riding. This, he says, he found to require great mental exertion, and through the amusement the game of billiards afforded him, he was soon, by playing a few games twice a day, able to walk six miles at a time, without experiencing so much fatigue as a quarter of a mile did before he adopted the resolution of revolutionizing his system.

To effect a thorough change in the circulating fluids, or, as his friend Dr. Pitcarn had observed, to alter the fluids and habits of his body, he adopted a different diet;—For tea and coffee, he substituted infusion of rosemary, balm, and sage, and occasionally chocolate.—For dinner he took fresh animal food, chiefly beef and mutton underdone, with mealy potatoes (mashed with a little butter, pepper, and salt), For bread, in consequence of being a fermented article, he substituted *brown* biscuits, which for breakfast he softened by immersion in his herb tea, or chocolate,—For dinner he seldom took any biscuit, in consequence of giving a preference to mashed potatoes;—Cheese he entirely abandoned, from a conviction that it disturbed digestion, and excited rheumatic and gouty pains.—A French Physician of Bourdeaux, informed him twenty years ago, that the use of cheese was a cause of rheumatism, and he had in consequence observed, that those who indulged in it, were either rheumatic or gouty. For supper he took a little cold meat underdone, with pepper, and salt;—Fermented liquors of every description he avoided.—The domestic wines, the weak French wines, and port wine, he has ascertained from long experience to be very bad for gouty subjects, on account of becoming acid in the stomach. Acidity in the stomach, to which gouty subjects are liable, in consequence of the morbid degree of temperature, and irritability of the stomach, he says, tends to keep up gouty irritation, and is often an exciting cause of a paroxysm.—For a common beverage, he has adopted water, soda water, and solution of the super-carbonate of magnesia, to either of which he adds, after going through much fatigue, or when his stomach requires a stimulus, a little brandy.—To strengthen the stomach and neutralize acid matter in it, he took every afternoon for the course of twelve months (about two hours before dinner), the following powder in a small wine-glassful of simple peppermint water.

Take of Carbonate of Soda, twenty grains;
Columbo Powder, fifteen grains.—Mix.

For the first week of every month, for about two years, he took four grains of the blue pill, at bed time, with as much of powdered rhubarb as the state of the bowels required to keep them in a regular state. By these means, in the course of three years, says he, he has completely succeeded in destroying the disposition to gout in his habit, by producing a thorough revolution in it; and by continuing it, he says, he is certain that he will not only enjoy life, but add many years to it. He says, he now rises every morning at seven o'clock, takes his breakfast after a walk, at eight; dines at three; takes supper at

nine, and goes to bed about half-past ten. On reperusing our correspondent's communication, we find we have omitted to state that, during the "first year of adopting this alterative medical and dietetical management of himself," he took every morning, a tea-spoonful of the following electuary:

Take of Powdered Guaiac Gum, one drachm;
Flowers of Sulphur, half an ounce;
Columbo Powder, 3 drachms;
Carbonate of Soda, 3 ditto;
Lenitive Electuary, 2 ounces;
Water, sufficient to form an Electuary.

Under the head of fermented articles, he says, malt liquor, wines, (domestic and foreign), and bread, are formidable ambush enemies to gouty subjects. Temperance, horse exercise and cold, are his best friends. He found more difficulty in reducing the nervous excitement of the brain, than of any other part; and when he found it would not entirely give way to the application of cold water to the head twice a day, he rubbed the scalp every morning with ice, and in the course of four months, by means of it, he says, "I succeeded in establishing an equilibrium of action between my brain, and every other part of the body; and I have since taken care not to destroy it by any excess of indulgence in an article of diet, which is likely to disorder the digestive organs, as ripe fruit, sweetmeats, pastry, wine, liquors, &c." He concludes with the observation:—"The gouty subject, who adopts this plan, simple as it is, will in a few months, feel grateful both to you and myself for having given it publicity."

SULPHUREOUS APERIENT WATER.

Sir,—An artificial Spa, if it may be so called, made by boiling the following ingredients in five pints of water, to the evaporation of one pint, and letting it stand for twelve hours, will be found highly useful, in *patchy* cutaneous eruptions, taken in the dose of a wine-glassful every morning:

Take of Glauber Salt, six ounces:
Sublimed Sulphur, two ounces:
Cream of Tartar, one ounce and an half:
Nitrate of Potash, two drachms.—Mix,

In chronic ulcerations of the legs also, when they have an unhealthy appearance, seeming to arise from some constitutional derangement, the above water will be found very beneficial: I have been in the habit of prescribing it these six years past, and in every instance found it do good.

Finding your useful miscellany open to simple and unvarnished communications, which may tend to benefit mankind, I have been induced to forward the above.

I am, Sir, yours &c. &c.

To the Editor of the Gazette of Health. R. H. C.

The water made according to the above directions, does not contain a sufficient quantity of sulphur, to produce any alterative effect on the constitution.—One dose of the artificial Harrowgate Salt, contains more sulpur than a gallon of it.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 105.] To SEPTEMBER 1, 1824. [Vol. IX.

The late LORD BYRON.

Sirs,—The account you have given of the disease which terminated the valuable life of the late Lord Byron, being in my opinion much too concise to enable your medical readers to form an opinion of the propriety of the treatment which was adopted for the recovery of his Lordship; and the morbid and natural appearances the brain and viscera of the chest and abdomen exhibited on dissection, (which not only throw a little light on the nature of the malady, but afford matter of great interest to the class of philosophers of the day denominated phrenologists) being omitted, I have taken up my pen to supply you with such additional information as I consider necessary to complete the case, and which, being chiefly derived from personal observation, I hope you will deem worthy a place in the next Number of your valuable Work.

To the craniologist, or the phrenologist, the appearances of the brain, particularly the hardness of the skull, proportion of the cortical to the medullary parts, the firm texture of the organ, the unusual large size of the heart and lungs, the smallness of the liver, &c. &c. must afford matter for the most lively and profound reflection, because he was unquestionably a man of most extraordinary mental endowments, having the sublimity of thought and beautiful flights of fancy necessary to form the poet, and that of the profound reflection of a philosophical sage. Some bigots having, from a few flights of his imagination, termed him an infidel, and others an heretic, I beg to state for the information of phrenologists, and not with a view of vindicating his religious opinions against such assailants, that he never entertained the slightest doubt of the existence of a God; indeed I may say, that to his mind the simplest thing in nature afforded evidence of it; and such delight did he experience from contemplation on metaphysical subjects, that it was for this indulgence he so often sought solitude. He was also a warm admirer of the pure morality and simplicity of primitive Christianity, but, as a friend to rational liberty, he greatly lamented its perversion by the Popish Church to incarcerate the human mind for the base purposes of priestcraft. Although he was a man of firm mind, and entered into a favourite pursuit with great ardour, he was of an irritable temper, and on the certainty of his friendship, those who were best acquainted with him placed little reliance,—in the time of need he was, however, a friend in deed.

How far these facts may be confirmed by the craniological or phrenological characters of his skull, or appearances of his brain, I leave those who have devoted more time to the science to determine; but, whatever the indications of the character of the skull may be in the opinion of Gall, Spurzheim, or any other phrenologist, I will venture to assert, no man who knew his Lordship will say that he was not a practical Christian. He was a most decided enemy to the parade of religion, but a friend to the religion of the heart, that which influences

the conduct of men, or rather is evinced in their transactions with their fellow-creatures, and as such he frequently addressed his God, enthusiastically admired his handy-works, and in his last hours he evinced the fortitude of a stoick, or rather of a *true* practical christian. His mind had been so actively engaged in defending the oppressed and persecuted Christians of Greece against their barbarous oppressors, that I have no hesitation in saying, to this cause his life was sacrificed; a cause, although that of Christianity against Infidels, the association of monarchs, terming themselves the "*Holy* Alliance," have, to their indelible disgrace, viewed with indifference, notwithstanding the massacres committed by the infidels have been of that appalling kind as should excite the commisseration of every honest man, or of monarchs who do not make a tool of religion for the base purpose of pilfering their subjects.

On the 9th of April, during a ride (which he had long been in the habit of taking daily) his Lordship was exposed to a heavy shower of rain. The following morning, although he had slept well, he complained of head-ache, pain in the limbs, slight fever, loss of appetite, &c.; he however took his usual ride in the evening. Finding his fever to increase, he observed to his servant that he thought riding on the wet saddle had aggravated his complaint. He experienced a very restless night, and the following morning the pains in the head and limbs, and the heat of the body, were increased. Dr. Bruno, an Italian physician, ordered an aperient and a sudorific medicine, and recommended an abstraction of blood, to the latter of which his Lordship objected.

On the 12th the symptoms of fever, as restlessness, heat of body, confusion of head, pains in the limbs, were more alarming to his non-medical than his medical attendants; and one of the former urged his Lordship to call in the assistance of Dr. Thomas, (a physician of whose professional abilities he entertained a very high opinion) to which he consented; but Dr. Bruno and Mr. Mellengen, considering the case only as "common cold," deemed it unnecessary. The purgative and sudorific medicines were continued. He refused to take any food, except a few tea-spoonsful of weak broth, two or three times in the course of twenty-four hours.

The treatment of purging and sweating was continued till the 15th, without producing any material mitigation of symptoms; and the total absence of sleep, and extreme restlessness, with a disposition to wandering of the mind, now so much alarmed his friends, that they became very desirous of further medical advice. Dr. Bruno determined on bleeding, and his Lordship consenting, Mr. Mellengen, on the following day, took a pint of blood from a vein of the arm. The blood soon exhibited a buffy appearance, a proof of inflammatory action in the system. The symptoms continuing unabated, and those of delirium having increased, Dr. Bruno and Mr. Mellengen were again urged to send for Dr. Thomas, but this they said was unnecessary, because the disease must come to a crisis (favourable or unfavourable) before he could possibly arrive. The following morning, the brain being evidently more disturbed, Dr. Bruno ordered him again to be bled, which was accordingly done by Mr. M., till he

fainted. This second operation having afforded no relief, it was repeated in the evening, till he fainted, without any favourable result; indeed, the delirium evidently increased with the debility which followed the loss of blood.

On the 18th, his Lordship considering his case desperate, or rather hopeless, he expressed a wish to see Dr. Thomas, and desired a friend to send for him without consulting Dr. B. as to its necessity. The paroxysms of delirium increased in violence, and during the short lucid intervals, finding dissolution to be rapidly advancing, he gave some directions to a confidential attendant respecting his daughter, sister, &c., which, from his exhausted state, were very imperfectly understood by him. Dr. Bruno and Mr. Mellengen, being now convinced that their noble patient was rapidly sinking, determined to administer the Peruvian bark and wine, but alas! the vital powers were so far reduced, that they evinced no cordial or stimulating effect. In the evening he placed himself in a position to take, as he observed, his last sleep. He soon afterwards appeared to be dosing, and in this comatose state he continued till the following day, when his soul quitted its earthly tenement, for that country where the "wicked cease from troubling, and the weary find rest." On examination of the body, the skull-bone was found very hard, the sutures and the centre part termed the diploe, nearly obliterated; a very unusual occurrence at the age of thirty-seven, which was that of his Lordship. The dura mater was very firmly attached to the skull; and its blood vessels, as well as those of the pia mater, were much distended, but there was no effusion of lymph. The longitudinal sinus, and the vessels throughout the substance of the brain, were also much distended with blood. The ventricles contained about three ounces of serum of a reddish colour. The medullary substance of the brain was considerably greater in proportion to the cortical part than usual. The texture of the brain was very firm, and the whole (cerebrum and cerebellum) without any of the membranes, weighed about six pounds. The impressions on the internal surface of the skull-bone from blood vessels, were unusually small and numerous. The lungs, which were perfectly healthy, were unusually large. The heart was also very large, the substance flaccid, and the pericardium contained about an ounce of healthy serum. The liver was small and sound, the intestines much distended with gas, the kidneys, &c. in a natural state. From the appearances of the dura and pia mater, the sinuses, ventricles, and the substances of the brain, together with the healthy condition of the viscera of the chest and belly, the medical gentlemen who were present at the time of the examination, gave their opinion, that had his Lordship consented to be bled when Dr. Bruno first proposed it, or before the brain and nervous system had been seriously disturbed, the malady (so long considered by Dr. B. and Mr. M. a "common cold,") would not have terminated fatally, and with this opinion I think every practitioner who has the opportunity of watching the progress of typhus fever, either of Greece, London, or of Ireland, and the effects of depletion on it during its different stages, will coincide. The malady in its first stage is chiefly vascular, I mean confined to the vascular system; and in this stage bleeding and application of cold water to the head, or

cold effusion are important remedies. When it has arrived to its second stage, the brain and nervous system being disturbed by the vascular action, it is then chiefly nervous; and it is worthy of notice, that during this stage, abstraction of blood, so far from diminishing the morbid excitement of the brain, absolutely increases it; and in the last stage, when *venous* plethora exists with the cerebral or nervous excitement, bleeding manifestly diminishes the sufferings of the patient by hastening the fatal termination of the disease, and by reducing that power of the heart, on which the experienced physician depends for the removal of *venous* congestion. After abstracting blood, tonic medicines, as the decoction of Peruvian bark, with compound spirit of sulphuric ether, (Hoffman's anodyne liquor) are proper to allay nervous excitement of the brain, and to invigorate the heart, so as to prevent venous congestion. It is worthy of notice, that the hearts of patients who have died of fever, or indeed of any other disease, in which the lancet had been freely employed, have been always found in a state of flaccidity, with an excess of serum in the pericardium; and when we consider these effects, can a practitioner expect to derive essential benefit from repeated copious bleeding in a case of typhus fever, in the latter stage of which, dissection has satisfactorily proved *venous* plethora to prevail, or in the apoplexy of elderly people, which is occasioned by over-distension of the veins and sinuses of the brain?

In the case of Lord Byron, I lament much that blisters were not applied to the scalp, nape of the neck and feet, and cold water, or water and vinegar, to the head. I should observe, that his Lordship was very subject to rheumatic fever; and this fact being known to his medical attendants, probably induced them to consider his complaint, in the first instance, to be what is vulgarly termed "common cold;" which, by the bye, is often the forerunner of many dangerous diseases, viz. inflammation of the lungs, bowels, and brain.

Dr. Armstrong has published much plausible nonsense on venous plethora, in cases of typhus, and on the advantage of unloading the veins by leeches; but experience has taught me that the blood so abstracted is chiefly from arteries; and that, instead of unloading the *venous* system, it increases the quantity of blood in it, by debilitating the heart and arteries; for the transmission of blood through the system of veins, unquestionably depends on the power of the heart and arteries. The venous system is only to be unloaded by opening a vein; and after this is effected, tonic medicines are necessary, to restore the equilibrium between the venous and arterial systems, and, in typhus fever, to prevent or subdue the morbid excitement of the brain and nervous system. This practice, by some routine physicians, has been condemned as inconsistent; the remedies being, in their opinion, diametrically opposite;—but the result has proved that it is founded on a knowledge of the state of the system, during confirmed typhus fever. Venous congestion of the brain, of which many thousand elderly people die annually in this country, is generally the consequence of diminution of the propelling power of the heart, from ossification of its valves and arteries, or of the ascending aorta; and in such cases, abstraction of blood by leeches, cupping, or from the temporal artery, never fails to hasten the dissolution of the patient; whereas

blood taken from a vein, especially the external jugular, by relieving the venous congestion, removes a formidable obstacle to the free transmission of blood from one ventricle of the heart to the other. Hence, in cases of apoplexy of elderly people, vomiting, or a glass of brandy taken into the stomach—by increasing arterial action, so as to overcome venous congestion, by forcing the blood into the arterial system, I have often observed to remove the cause of the disease in a few minutes; and in cases of impending apoplexy, to prevent its taking place. I shall have much pleasure in communicating to you the advantages I have derived in my practice, from making a distinction between venous and arterial plethora, &c.; because I stand indebted to you for many valuable practical remarks on the causes and treatment of venous congestion, and on arterial and nervous excitement, which take place in the different stages and varieties of fevers.

I am, Sir, your constant reader,

Berners Street, August 20, 1824. I. T. M. D.

MANUSCRIPTS OF THE LATE JOHN HUNTER.

Some of the *masters*, or rather *proprietors*, of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, lately made an application to Sir Everard Home, one of the executors of the celebrated anatomist and surgeon, the late John Hunter, for a considerable collection of manuscripts left by him, which, it is said, contained much novel matter, chiefly relative to physiology. Sir Everard, in answer to their solicitation, frankly stated that, valuable as the documents were, they had been "consumed by fire;" but whether by accident or intention, the worthy baronet has not condescended to notice!! It is said that the most interesting facts have been communicated, at different times, to the Royal Society, by one of its living members, as his own discoveries: be this as it may, we regret that the *facts* have not appeared in the simple language of the real discoverer, with his unvarnished observations. On the disgraceful suppression or mutilation of the Hunterian manuscripts, (which, by throwing light on physiology and surgical pathology, might have greatly benefited mankind in general, had they been published in the state in which they were found by the executors,) the editor of the Literary Gazette has ventured to make the following spirited remarks.

"The *destruction* of the manuscripts left by the celebrated John Hunter, has, for several months, been a subject of discussion in the literary circles, and has now (as we observe from the Morning Post) begun to find its way into the newspapers. This being the case, we may notice that it has certainly been a matter of almost universal regret, wherever we have heard the affair spoken of, that Sir Everard Home should have burnt the papers of his deceased friend. Indeed, very unpleasant constructions have not unfrequently been put upon this act of executorship; and some persons have not hesitated to say, that the manuscripts had contributed, in a greater extent than Sir E. H. wished to have known, towards the composition of works which he has published as entirely his own. Of course we can hardly credit that a gentleman of his eminence would be guilty of so disingenuous a proceeding; and are, on the contrary, rather inclined to believe that Mr.

Hunter, as stated by Sir Everard, really expressed a desire to have his literary and scientific remains destroyed, as being unfit for the public eye!! Still, however, we cannot help joining in the opinions of those who think that a much better, and far more satisfactory use, might have been made of even the loose and unfinished sketches of so distinguished a philosopher."

In a biographical sketch of the late Dr. Baillie, which was published in this work during his life-time, we stated, on good authority, that that physician was not a little indebted to the manuscripts left by the late Dr. Wm. Hunter and Mr. John Hunter, for the principal materials of his work on Morbid Anatomy; and we were afterwards told that he did not deny the truth of our assertion. We believe the late Dr. Baillie was a co-executor, with Sir Everard Home, of the late Mr. John Hunter; and if so, they perhaps divided the manuscripts, which were not left to the College of Surgeons, or any other corporate body, but to be employed as the executors, in their judgment, might deem proper. Had Mr. John Hunter considered the papers unfit for public eye, he would have committed them to the flames when he found his life drawing to a conclusion. The subjects, we are told, were physiological only; and, therefore, if unfit for general, could not be for professional perusal. We hope that the parts which have been published in different works, will not prevent the publication of the whole, in the language in which they were found by the executors; for certainly we are ignorant of any communication to the profession from Sir Everard Home, which any medical man who has a proper respect for the character of Mr. John Hunter would ascribe to his pen; or, indeed, one which would do credit to Dr. Eady or Dr. Jordon.

HYDROPHOBIA.

Sir Astley Cooper, Baronet and Surgeon, in a late lecture on the prevention and treatment of hydrophobia, observed—"The best mode that can be adopted is, *immediately* after the part has been bitten, to cut it out; you should at first ascertain at what depth the teeth have entered, by means of a probe, and then take care to excise a sufficient quantity, and leave no part of the injured integument, cellular membrane, or muscle, remaining. If persons should object to the use of the knife—foolishly object to have the poisoned part cut away—I advise you, in such cases, to let sink into the wound a small piece of the *potassa fusa*; this will readily dissolve, and becoming liquid, its cauterizing influence will be communicated to each part of the wound, and thus destroy the influence of poison. The best plan decidedly is the immediate excision of the part; and where it has been done directly after the injury, it has, I believe, in every instance, been successful in preventing the disease. If this practice should be opposed, the next best plan is the employment of the *potassa fusa*. I am speaking of these means, you will observe, as preventives; and as for medical remedies, when the symptoms of hydrophobia have once appeared, I am not acquainted with any. Every medicine, I believe, has been tried over and over again, and *all* have been found alike ineffectual. The only thing in the way of medicine, that I think calculated to do good,

is that which has been lately adopted in France, viz. the injection of warm water into the veins. To make the employment of the remedy safe, however, and to prevent pressure of the brain, the same quantity of blood should be previously abstracted as it is intended there should be water injected; with this precaution, I think the remedy a very proper and feasible one. I would here remark, that the blood need not be abstracted *before* the injection of the water, but may be let flow from one vein while the water is thrown in at another; and this probably would be the better plan."

The complete excision of the wounded part as soon as possible after its infliction is an old practice, and unquestionably the most efficacious preventive treatment that can be adopted. The effects of the application of the *potassa fusa*, (caustic alcali) which we have noticed in one of our early Numbers, as practised by an English surgeon, is doubtful, from the uncertainty of its being properly or sufficiently introduced to the bottom of all the punctures, so as to destroy the surface of each.

As to the treatment of the disease, when it has taken place, by injecting water into a vein, which the learned Baronet pronounces feasible, we are credibly informed that the person on whom the experiment was made "with complete success," was no more affected with the disease than the operator, and that the patient became somewhat delirious and feverish a short time after it. On a dog in perfect health, two ounces of water injected into a vein, produced symptoms of madness. We are sorry the learned Baronet neglected to explain the *modus operandi* of the water conveyed by injection to the blood. Does he suppose that the blood is contaminated by an absorption of the hydrophobic poison, and that the remedy proves beneficial by diluting the poisoned fluid? This, we presume, cannot be the case; for the action of the poison in producing the disease, appears by the symptoms to be on the brain and nervous system; and also by the disease having been brought on by the powers of the imagination alone, and from the effects of the remedy on brutes, we should suppose that it was not likely to allay excessive nervous or cerebral excitement attendant on hydrophobia.

It having been ascertained by numerous experiments on brutes, that water, even of the temperature of the blood, is an irritant to the internal coat of a vein, we conceive the injection of fresh warm milk from a cow, or an ass, into a vein, more feasible than that of water. The best method of introducing a fluid into the circulation, is to divide the vein, and allow a quantity of blood to escape from the lower part, equal to that of the fluid injected at the same time into the upper part, by which means *local* congestion would be effectually prevented, which would not be the case if the fluid be injected into the vein of one limb, and blood be extracted from that of another.

SMALL POX AND COW POX.

At a time when much difference of opinion exists among many respectable members of the profession, relative to the real value of the discovery of the influence of cow pox, as a security against small

pox contagion, the following copy of a letter lately addressed to the governors of the Small Pox Hospital, by its physician Dr. Gregory, a gentleman highly esteemed for his love of truth, and scientific acquirements, will be read with great satisfaction by those parents who have subjected their children to cow pox, with the view of securing them against the infection of small pox.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,—The exertions of your medical officers for the cure and prevention of small pox, have been rewarded during the last year, by a degree of success, which, compared with the results of former years, it is most gratifying to your physician to report.

"The total number of in-patients admitted during the year 1823, amounted to 151, of whom 114 were discharged cured, and only 37 died; being very nearly the lowest rate of mortality which the records of your hospital present for the last forty years. In the first five months of the present year, 72 patients have been admitted, of whom 19 have died, being in the somewhat increased ratio of 52 in 100. The remainder have been either discharged cured, or may now be seen in the wards of the hospital, convalescent. One third of those who have died since the commencement of the present year, exhibited all those extreme marks of violence and malignity of disease, which, precluding from the very first all hopes of relief, have rendered the small pox, in every age of the world, an object of disgust and dread. The arrangements which have been made with the guardians of the poor in several of the parishes of the metropolis, (particularly St. Giles in the Fields), have caused an unusual number of infants and children to be admitted lately within your walls; and your physician is sorry to state, that a very large proportion of the mortality has fallen upon that helpless class of patients. Fourteen children under 7 years of age (one fifth of the total admissions) have been received into the house since the 1st of January of the present year, and of them, eight have died.

"Reverting to the proceedings of the year 1823, your physician has to report, that of the 151 patients treated within its walls during that period, forty-seven had previously been vaccinated. Of these, in the ordinary course of the disease, and without the protecting influence of vaccination, twelve, at the very lowest computation, would have died. It must then be highly satisfactory to the governors to learn, that the whole of these persons have been restored to society. It is not, indeed, to be denied, that seven of them suffered severely under the attack of the disorder, and that it required from four to six weeks for their perfect cure; but it is no light praise of vaccination to say, that even imperfectly performed (and there was reason to presume that such had been the case in most of these instances), it still had the power of mitigating the horrors of this dreadful disease, and of preserving life, though it proved insufficient to resist the inroads of the contagion.

"Of the 72 persons admitted since the commencement of this year, two had been inoculated for the small pox, and bore the marks of having already once passed through the disease; nineteen had been vaccinated; and it is the painful duty of your physician to report, that of them *one* died, without mitigation of the symptoms in *any* stage of the disorder. The case was that of a young woman, vaccinated, when

an infant, in the country; and your physician took pains to ascertain the exact mode in which the process had been conducted. This he was happily enabled to do, with the assistance of a professional gentleman residing on the spot, whose enquiries tended to establish, most satisfactorily, that vaccination had, in this instance, been performed *imperfectly* and *unskilfully*, and that no reasonable confidence could, at any time, have been placed in it. The melancholy result of the case, however, will not be without its use, if it impresses upon all those who are engaged in vaccinating, the indispensible necessity of a close attention to every stage of that process, upon which the safety of the individual in after-life so immediately depends. Your physician turns with pleasure to notice, that in the year 1823, 3129 persons were vaccinated, under his superintendence; and that, in the first five months of the present year, 1220 have passed through the same protecting process. With most unfeigned satisfaction he can add, that at no period, since the discovery of vaccination, has the confidence of the lower orders of people in this town, in the security which it is capable of affording, appeared to him greater than at present. It might well be considered too, that no persons have such good opportunities of judging; for the contagion of small pox, which visits provincial towns only at intervals, is always present in London, seeking whom it may devour. Those, indeed, whom a few unfavourable cases have impressed with an undue sense of the imperfections of the vaccine influence, would receive an useful lesson, by attending at your hospital, at the hours appropriated to vaccination. They would then learn to appreciate, in the grateful acknowledgments of thousands, the true value of that great blessing, which it was the glory of Jenner to have diffused; and though occasional failures will undoubtedly occur, to warn us, like spots upon the sun, that nothing is perfect, yet, to the eye that contemplates, on a wide scale, the results of vaccination, these are lost in the brilliancy of its general career. No where has it been more severely tried, but no where has it come out of the trial more triumphant than in the annals of your useful and excellent charity. "GEORGE GREGORY, M.D."

"8, *Upper John Street, Golden Square,*
"*June* 3*d*, 1824."

The small pox has lately made very considerable ravages in Hamburgh. The number in the hospital, which forms a very small portion of the infected, was, about a month ago, one hundred and fifty. The dispensaries established for gratuitous vaccination have been besieged by a great crowd of people since the *ordonnances* were published by the Council of Health, and other authorities, which require, 1stly, That every orphan who has not received the cow pox, be immediately vaccinated;—2dly, That no individual shall receive alms at the Establishment for the Poor, unless he can prove that not only he, but his family, has been vaccinated;—3dly, that no child shall be admitted into any of the free schools, unless he or she has been vaccinated;—4thly, that no one be permitted to form part of the garrison, or act as watchman, unless he can produce a certificate of having been vaccinated. The nearest towns to Hamburgh, in the duchies of Schleswic,

Holstein, and Lavenburg, are likewise afflicted with the epidemic; and the magistrates have published edicts to oppose its ravages.

Mr. Walker, a respectable surgeon of Oxford, has lately published a few cases of small pox, which occurred subsequent to cow pox inoculation. In noticing the comparative merits of cow and small pox, this experienced and observant practitioner remarks:—"The trouble, anxiety, and danger of propagation, attending inoculation, comparatively with the *direct reverse* of this in vaccination, is a weighty argument in favour of the latter, especially the notion which some have entertained, of extending it to the entire extinction of small pox. This hope, however, I may venture to say, is never likely to be realized. Small pox, from past experience, unfortunately, may be expected *occasionally* to visit every place it hitherto has done. It is a fact, though an *extremely rare one*, known to the faculty, that natural small pox has occurred a *second time;* also, as might be inferred, the same has happened after perfect inoculation; but in either instance, this is a *phenomenon* never to be expected or apprehended, being a circumstance of merely *possible* occurrence. It is not thus in *cow pox;* it is a fact, not to be concealed, that persons who have passed through that disease, at least by vaccination, do not feel so confident a security from small pox. It may be proper to state here, that the fluid of cow pox suffers no deterioration in passing through any number of persons. Difference of constitution, indeed, produces an apparent variation in effect, but the fluid itself still retains its *original activity*. Nor does it appear there is any 'wearing out' of the effect of vaccination, as it is called, since there was no apparent difference in effect between those who had been vaccinated four or five, or seventeen years, previously to inoculation.

"Hence it may be proper to recommend to those who, having passed through vaccination, *still feel alarm* whenever a probability occurs of being exposed to small pox, to submit to inoculation; since vaccination, ordinarily speaking, is so good a preparative for inoculation, even in the few instances which might fail of affording perfect security against future small pox, as to insure, nearly to a *certainty*, a very mild kind of the disease,—in short, vaccination to all who prefer it, with the precaution above-mentioned to those who do not possess sufficient confidence in it, if exposed to immediate danger.

"It may be proper to state that persons may be less liable after vaccination to receive small pox by *natural contagion*, than by inoculation; but should it enter the system thus, the disease may be expected to be *less mild*.

"It seems," says Mr. Walker, "to be demonstratively proved as a FACT (whatever may be the case in *cow pox*, received from its original source) 1st, that *perfect vaccination* does not, in all instances, succeed in protecting a person from *small pox;* 2dly, that *inoculation* is a safer way of receiving small pox after vaccination (should it follow) than the *natural way* of taking it; 3dly, that should any disposition remain in the habit for receiving small pox after *vaccination*, whatever may be the interval between, *inoculation*, with the usual precautions, will ensure, to a *moral certainty*, the purification of the habit, so as scarcely to amount to an annoyance.

SULPHUREOUS FUMIGATION.

We are glad to find the various fumigations now administered, under the superintendence of experienced members of the profession, in London and Brighton, are meeting with that support from medical men to which its merits lay claim. The established efficacy of this remedy in cutaneous diseases, obstructions of the liver, rheumatism, contractions or enlargements of joints, and various other obstinate complaints, which are little under the influence of routine medicine, renders this active agent worthy the attention of patients labouring under such troublesome disorders. We have noticed the high estimation in which this remedy is held on the continent of Europe. In Paris and Vienna, our correspondent, Dr. Miller, informs us it is often successfully employed, without any other means, for the cure of the complaints above enumerated. Invalids afflicted with rheumatism, and eruptions of the skin, should guard against enthusiasm in the powers of any single remedy, being the most dangerous enemy of science; as it often raises expectations which the remedy is incapable of realizing, and which, by disappointing the sanguine patients, often bring a valuable remedy into disrepute. For an obstinate case of disease of the skin, attended with very troublesome and painful cracks about the points of the fingers, of some years standing, which had resisted other remedies, we lately recommended a trial of Mr. Green's baths, in Bury-street, in conjunction with the blue pill and precipitated sulphuret of antimony; the result of which was most satisfactory, eleven baths having perfectly cured the patient. Since our last notice of this remedy, we have met with two cases of obstruction, or inactivity of the liver, with the usual accompanying affection of the stomach, in men upwards of seventy years of age; in which the sulphureous vapour-bath has been of essential service, occasioning copious bilious evacuations, more serviceable than those produced by the nitrico-muriatic bath, or repeated doses of mercury; and the effects were otherwise dissimilar; for the evacuations, in lieu of being of a yellow colour, as when produced by the chlorine bath, or mercury, had, in these two cases, an unusually red clayey appearance, which certainly very much relieved the patients.

Reiterated experience has most satisfactorily proved that sulphureous fumigation, by producing healthy action of the skin, and by its correcting effect on the system, is a powerful auxiliary to such internal remedies which the nature of the malady and the state of the general health may indicate; and under the superintendence of such experienced surgeons as Mr. Green, of London, and Mr. Brown, of Westcliff, Brighton, its reputation will no doubt increase, as a remedy for many chronic affections of the skin, and which will not yield to the most active local and constitutional management without its aid.

ACID FROM INDIGESTION.

About nine months since, Dr. Prout, of London, read a paper to the Royal Society, the object of which was to prove that the acid usually found to exist in the stomach of animals during the digestive process,

is the muriatic acid. An acquaintance of Mr. Children, who occasionally suffers severely from the effects of indigestion, lately requested him to examine the fluid ejected from his stomach during a violent dyspeptic paroxysm, with a view of ascertaining the nature of the free acid it contained. Mr. Children, after a chemical examination of the fluid, made the following report.

"The fluid which had been thrown from the stomach in the morning, fasting, when filtered, was perfectly clear, and nearly colourless; it gave a decidedly red tint to litmus paper. I distilled about six ounces of it, almost to dryness, at a gentle heat; receiving the product in three separate and nearly equal portions. One half of each portion was treated with nitrate of silver. The first had no effect on litmus paper, and scarcely gave the slightest cloud with the test. The second became slightly clouded by the test, but was equally without any action on the blue paper. The third portion highly reddened the paper, and produced an abundant dense cloud, when I dropped into it the nitrate of silver, and a pretty copious precipitate collected at the bottom of the tube. The remaining half of the third portion was evaporated, by a gentle heat, to about half a fluid drachm. The precipitate which a drop of it, placed on a slip of glass, occasioned with a drop of nitrate of silver, was insoluble in nitric acid, and perfectly soluble in ammonia. Another drop, similarly treated with muriate of barytes, gave no precipitate, nor cloud. The remainder was neutralized with pure ammonia, further evaporated, and poured on a slip of glass; when it afforded a multitude of well defined crystals of muriate of ammonia.

"The precipitate from the first half of the same portion by nitrate of silver, being collected, washed and dried, fused on a slip of platina foil, before the blow-pipe, into horn silver."

The result of these experiments may seem to confirm the opinion of Dr. Prout, respecting the nature of the acid which forms in the stomach of dyspeptic patients, and to which gouty subjects, who indulge in high dishes, wines and malt liquor, are very liable. The acid fluid ejected after an abuse of malt liquor, or even after taking sweet-meats, which is sometimes so powerfully acid as to inflame the fauces, and act on the enamel of the teeth so as to produce the sensation vulgarly termed, "put on the edge," certainly contains muriatic acid, in combination with soda; but not in a free state. We have repeatedly examined the acid which is produced in the stomach from imperfect digestion, and the results have satisfied us that it is the acetic acid. The idea of a mineral acid being produced in the stomach, is, indeed, so very ridiculous, that one would suppose that no physician, who has a respect for his chemical character, would broach such an opinion, from a single experiment.

INTROSUSCEPTION.

Several fatal cases of this disease having lately occurred in the practice of physicians and surgeons of eminence, we have much pleasure in giving one in which medical aid was successful. The symptoms were extremely violent, and the vomiting of fecal matter abundant. Several leeches were applied to the abdomen, an active aperient administered,

with clysters, and the body frequently placed in a warm bath for half an hour at a time; but all proved unavailing. Nine ounces of quicksilver were given in two doses; shortly after which, all the symptoms disappeared.

Quicksilver, to the extent of three ounces, is a common remedy, in this country, for the intestinal obstruction, termed introsusception; and we have known it to succeed, at the Hereford Infirmary, in a few bad cases of the disease; but had not the sanguiferous system been previously unloaded by venesection, and active aperient medicines, clysters, opiates and the warm bath been freely employed, we suspect the remedy would not have succeeded.

THE YELLOW FEVER.

At a late sitting of the Academy of Sciences of Paris, Monsieur Audouard read a memoir on the source of the contagion of the yellow fever, in which he laboured to prove, by the adduction of numerous observations, that this disease, whenever it manifests itself in a contagious form, proceeds from a particular infection generated in vessels which had been, or which are, engaged in the slave trade. The article was considered of such importance, that M. M. Chaptal, De Humboldt, Dumeril, and Magendie, were nominated by the Academy to investigate it, and report their opinion of it to an early meeting. It appears, from Dr. Burnett's interesting official report of fever, which appeared in the Bann, on the coast of Africa, and in the Islands of Ascension, that that fever made its first appearance in the Bann's tender (the San Raphael, a small Spanish schooner, taken by the Bann, with one hundred and fifty slaves on board, and afterwards made into a tender, and supplied with men from the Bann), and very soon afterwards in the Bann; the men of the latter having been engaged in the fitting out of the former; and that the fever was afterwards communicated by them to the detachments of marines at Ascension. We mention these circumstances as being calculated to shew that the opinion of M. Audouard has some plausibility.

ANTIMONIAL POWDER.

In our last number we made some remarks on the very opposite opinions maintained by some physicians of the present day, relative to the medicinal virtues of this powder, which is similar to the once celebrated fever powder of the late Dr. James. In opposition to the assertion of Dr. Elliotson and others, that the powder is nearly inert, Mr. Moore, who is better known to the medical profession as late chemical operator at Apothecaries' Hall, than either as a pharmaceutical or philosophical chemist or practitioner, has published the following remarks: "Within the last thirty years, *I mean* during the time that I was *chemical* operator to the Society of Apothecaries, I not only *superintended*, but have *sweated* myself in the preparation of *very large* quantities of the antimonial powder, as directed in the London Pharmacopœia. Being a very favourite medicine of *mine*, *I* have also given *a great deal* of it, and have always found, that,

either when taken alone or conjointly with other medicines, it *almost* constantly either nauseates, vomits, sweats, or acts on the bowels, producing these effects with a dose *of from* two to five grains; this has been my experience invariably. As *operator*, I constantly had the *opportunity* of *hearing* of it through the *very first* practitioners, and during the last *long* war, the Company had large orders frequently from the different government hospitals; for instance, from Haslar, often for four hundred ounces at a time. Surely if this medicine were then so much admired and in demand, (and I believe is now exactly, if not better, prepared,) it must still be capable of producing all the good effects expected from it as a medicine, without giving drachm doses. The inference I would draw then, is, that both Dr. Elliotson and Dr. F. Hawkins have not employed the same antimonial powder that I have alluded to. In my time I have heard of extraordinary doses of emetic tartar being given to vomit, perhaps from seven to ten grains, but no practitioner using what is made at the Hall, would, I should think, order more than from two to five grains."

The fact is, most learned apothecary and scientific operating chemist, the experiments were made with the antimonial powder prepared at the said Hall of the *worshipful* Company of Apothecaries, and even with the fever powder prepared by Messrs. Butler and Co. and Messrs. Newbury and Co., who have nostrum-establishments in opposition to the College of Physicians, and the worshipful Company of Apothecaries!! Mr. Moore's remarks on the extent to which emetic tartar has been given to excite vomiting, viz. "perhaps from seven to ten grains," betrays an ignorance of modern medicine; for in Italy it has been administered to the extent of sixty grains without disturbing the stomach. Mr. Moore's therapeutical and chemical remarks satisfactorily prove that his experience in the laboratory of the worshipful or worshipping Company of Apothecaries, has qualified him to retire from practice, and if he wishes to preserve his *high* character either as a chemist or a practitioner, we advise him not to enter into controversy with chemists and practitioners of experience and observation. The *sweating* effects, the making of the powder over a large furnace, produced on the person of the *observant* and *scientific* chemist, and the *large* orders the company received from surgeons of the army, certainly afford strong evidence of its being a powerful *sudorific*. The *sweating* effects of the antimonial powder, as well as all the other articles the army obtained at the Hall, were so sensibly felt by his Majesty's Privy Council or at the Treasury, that they have thought proper to obtain the drugs of every description (galenical and chemical) from other sources! Pray, good Mr. Moore, do attempt in your next gratuitous communication to account for this unceremonious resolution of government. Was it because so able a chemist as Mr. Moore is acknowledged to be by the *legitimate* class of physicians, had left the laboratory?

The effects of the antimonial powder depend not only on the presence of an acid in the stomach, but on some peculiarity of constitution which we leave to Mr. Moore to define. On some persons five grains will excite nausea; while on others, sixty grains produce no sensible effect.

PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER, &c.

The death of Dr. Woodyatt is likely to be productive of some advantage to the *medical* world, by bringing forward the medical talents of the physicians of the city of Worcester, who, unfortunately for the *science* of medicine, have been long *kept* in the back ground, for the want of a sufficient field for the employment of their professional abilities. The candidates for *honest* fame and reputation (not of course for the loaves and fishes) are four, viz. Dr. Hastings, Dr. Lewes, Dr. Pierpoint, and Dr. Malden, each of which have been actively engaged in the field of practice vacated by the late Dr. Woodyatt.—The gigs have been revarnished, the wheels well greased by the *patent* anti-attrition, the horses inspirited by an extra allowance of corn, the servants splendidly decorated with an extra quantity of lace, and as to the candidates themselves, they appear to be so bent on *mischief*, that poor Death has never been before so unmercifully chased in the city and county of Worcester, at least since the time of the celebrated Surgeon Russel. The powers of the mind, which some consider peculiar to the members of the profession, termed "insinuation and worming," to which some of the leading physicians of London are indebted for the rank they hold and for the loaves and fishes they have accumulated, have been most *advantageously* exerted by some of the candidates; and the persuasive powers of the female tongue, being a necessary auxiliary to secure success, the petticoat interest has been most "insinuatingly cultivated." Without such aid all the efforts of worming, by means of inuendos and insinuations, must certainly prove ineffectual, however meritorious or skilful the candidate may be. The contest (which was highly amusing to all parties except the undertakers and parsons, who of course were not pleased with the danger in which their friend Death was placed by such an *imposing* exhibition of the curative art,) was for some time in favour of Dr. Pierpoint. The doctor succeeded in obtaining the good opinion of an invalid, the wife of a *rich* banker. This being extremely discouraging to the other candidates, calumny was actively employed to dislodge him from his strong position. The patient's sister was so convinced, by the *judicious* remarks of certain practitioners, that the treatment adopted by Dr. Pierpoint was highly *injudicious*, that she did not hesitate to declare that he was an ignorant fool and a dangerous practitioner!! This declaration having had the desired effect on the minds of the patient and her opulent husband, very naturally enraged the doctor; and losing his high sense of gallantry, for which medical men are generally celebrated, he determined to vindicate his own character, as a duty he owed to himself, and to punish the calumniatrix, as his duty to society. The sister of a rich banker's wife is fine substantial game for lawyers. Dr. Pierpoint intimated his resolution to his attorney, who lost no time in discharging the first shot, which unfortunately was boldly returned by one of *justification!!* Advocates most celebrated for the "gift of the gab" were engaged by both parties. They appeared impatient for the arrival of the day of trial. The interim was well employed by the doctor in obtaining corroboratory evidence; and the young lady, *Miss* Shapland, so far from being intimidated, occasionally discharged a *stimulating* squib to keep up the doctor's courage.

On the day of trial both parties were in high spirits. The doctor had laid his damages at no less than five thousand pounds, an enchearing sum both to him and his attorney; but Missy, so far from being intimidated, smiled at the high value he had put on his medical character.| *Voluminous* BRIEFS were put in the hands of the different barristers, and the case, on the part of the doctor, was detailed, before Mr. Justice Littledale and a special jury, by Mr. Jarvis, with all the solemnity and force, the wig, the gown, legal sophistry, and the contents of his brief, could possibly afford.

"This action," emphatically observed Mr. Jervis, "is brought by Dr. Pier-

point, a physician *and* surgeon of this city, against *Miss* Susanna Shapland, a lady of *great* respectability, residing in College-green, in this city, for the purpose of vindicating his character against the words uttered by the defendant, imputing to him unskilfulness in his profession, and charging him moreover with *injudiciously*, unskilfully, and improperly administering an emetic to Mrs. Isaac, an elderly lady, whereby her life was placed in considerable danger. This lady, now deceased, was the widow of a gentleman *of fortune*, who was formerly attended by the plaintiff. The defendant, Miss Shapland, is related to some of the *first* families in this county. *This action Gentlemen, is not brought so much for the recovery of damages as for the vindication of my client's professional reputation.* The question of damages is for your *peculiar* consideration, because it is only by *ample remuneration* that Dr. Pierpoint's character can be vindicated from the aspersions and slander of the defendant. This defendant, Gentlemen, has in the first place pleaded the general issue, with the view of putting us to the proof of the utterance, and the circumstances under which they were uttered. In the second place, the defendant has pleaded a *justification* on the record, or, in other words, pleads that the words were founded in truth. A stronger imputation upon the skill and judgment of a medical man than that which charges him with unskilfully endangering the life of a patient cannot possibly be imagined. Had the general issue alone been pleaded, he should only have had to call witnesses to prove the facts, but after the period of twelve months had passed away, *they were reiterated.* Gentlemen, we have a right to expect, and I demand and challenge my learned friend, Mr. Russell, to bring proof of the facts which are on the record, and I tell him that if he does not do so, that his client will go out of a Court of Justice branded as a calumniator. I shall confine myself to a simple narration of the facts. I shall prove to you that my client is a *Doctor of Medicine*, and I will produce his diploma. I shall also prove that he is a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. Dr. Pierpoint has carried on his profession for some years with *considerable* celebrity and success. He is married and with an *increasing* family. Gentlemen, you all know the importance of professional reputation; we all know how injurious it must be to a gentleman who lives by his professional practice to be called ignorant and unskilful. For a lawyer to be charged with ignorance of chicanery must be most hurtful, but for a medical practitioner to be charged with want of skill and judgment, and with having caused the death of one of his patients, must not only create the most poignant sensations, but injure him, and most probably for ever destroy his professional *business.* The Defendant, Miss Shapland, is a lady of rank and character, and is sister to the Rev. Mr. Shapland, and to the late Mrs. Isaac, whose husband was a partner in the Worcester Old Bank. The late Mrs. Isaac being unwell in March last year, was advised by Mrs. Wheeler, a friend of Dr. P., to call that gentleman in. His first visit was on 23d March, and he continued there to 28th March. On the 28th, Mrs. Isaac visited Sir A. Lechmere, and remained at his house until the 8th April, when she returned home, and feeling indisposed from having been *rather* irregular in her diet, during her absence, again required medical assistance! Dr. P. was again called in, and *Mrs. Isaac* suggested the propriety of taking an emetic. She had taken one before, but it did not produce the proper effect—only creating nausea. Dr. Pierpoint administered an emetic on the 10th, and the following morning, Mrs. Isaac found herself so much better, that she said she felt as though she were in heaven *(laughter.)* In a fortnight after, Mrs. Isaac was so much recovered that she paid a visit to Mr. Welsh, of Hawford, and returned the visit of Mr. Lucas, who lived about a mile distant, and on her return she complained of exhaustion, from fatigue." After detailing all the particulars of the case, Mr. Jervis proceeded to prove the truth of his allegations, by the following evidence.

Mr. John Cruikshanks.—I am Secretary to the Mareschal College of Physicians of Aberdeen. A diploma as M. D. was granted the 22nd of July, 1822, to Mr. Pierpoint

Cross-examined by Mr. Russell.—The degree costs about £26, of which the diploma costs about £11. *The difference is divided between one of the Professors and the Library Fund. !!!*

Mr. Edmund Belfour, Secretary to the College of Surgeons in London, proved that the Surgeon diploma was granted by the College of Surgeons to the plaintiff, in the year 1811.

Mrs. H. Clifton—was *intimate* with the late Mrs. Mary Isaac and Miss Mary Shapland; she lived at College Green, Miss Shapland lived with her; remembers her return from Hawford to Worcester. On my return home I called upon her to inquire how she was, having heard she was *extremely* ill; this was about the 12th of May; saw Miss Shapland; told her I came to inquire after her sister's health; I said I was sorry that Mrs. Isaac was ill; Miss S. said it was *very well you found her alive, for your friend, Mr. Pierpoint, has nearly been the death of her; I never was so angry as when I found he had been called in during my absence from home.* That was all which passed then. Mrs. Isaac was too ill to be seen. In about a couple of days, a message came that Mrs. Isaac wished to see me. I went, and I saw her. It was about Dr. P.; remained about a quarter of an hour; saw Miss Shapland on return from Mrs. Isaac's room; she asked me if her sister had mentioned the Pierpoint business; I said she has; she said, did you ever hear of such a thing as his giving her the emetic; *great fool and idiot as he was; he is not fit to be trusted; every thing he did for her was as bad as it was possible to be, and it is only a mercy she did not die on the spot after taking the emetic, as nothing was so likely to be her death, from the state of her body from the bursting of a blood vessel.* I said I understood she had been relieved by it; she said yes, she had, luckily, but it was *all* luck!! I asked her if the Doctor said so (referring to Dr. Malden); she said no, he does not say so, but *we all* know it is so; all her friends think so too; she was dying *by inches under Dr. Pierpoint's management.* I said I was astonished, for I always understood that his medical skill was attested by men of great eminence. She said I have heard so too; but he has proved himself the reverse, for there never was *so ignorant a fool attempt to practise; he scarcely knows his right hand from his left*; he cannot *explain* a single symptom, and knows no more about her disorder than *you* do, and I will take good care that he never enters the house of *any* friend of mine, if I can help it; I hope my brother may not meet him, for he is so enraged against him that I cannot answer for the consequence. This was all that passed. Myself and my husband are intimate with Dr. Pierpoint; knew that Dr. Pierpoint had learnt that she (witness) had been sent for to the house of Mrs. Isaac; he (the plaintiff) called upon her in consequence the next day, and inquired upon the subject. She communicated the particulars of that conversation to Miss Shapland the next day. I told him that Miss S. had been with me, making inquiries on the subject of his *dismissal* from Mrs. Isaac. I told her that he inquired of me as an intimate friend, whether they had expressed any dissatisfaction at his conduct, and whether there was any thing particular of which they had complained. I told her that he said he had been exceedingly hurt by the manner in which he was dismissed; that he said, in fact, that his livelihood depended on his medical reputation, and that he was therefore anxious to exonerate himself from any imputation; that he had told me of the very delicate situation in which he was placed, and herself (the witness) too, as being intimate with both parties. I told Dr. Pierpoint about Mrs. Isaac's relations, and that her connexions might be of great consequence to him, not only by his friends, but the public in general. *She had not con-*

municated to Dr. Pierpoint the offensive part of the conversation. She told Miss Shapland that she had told Dr. Pierpoint that they found fault with the emetic. Miss Shapland went on to say, "I hold Mr. Pierpoint in the *greatest contempt*," and repeated all the expressions which she before used. She said, if the subject was ever again mentioned, you "may say what you please, I cannot describe my contempt for him;" I might say he was "such a fool and an idiot that I have the greatest contempt for him; I care not what he knows; *all* his *friends* are of *my* opinion, and as for Mr. Isaac, of Boughton, he says he is nothing less than a *downright* fool." This was all that passed then. Herself and her husband dined shortly after at Mr. Isaac's, at Boughton. Saw Miss S. again before I communicated this last conversation to Dr. Pierpoint. I was sent for again by Miss Shapland; Miss S. mentioned having seen Mr. Isaac, of Boughton, and that Pierpoint had been endeavouring to frighten her by *talking* of an action, and asked witness if she had heard of any such thing. I said I knew he was extremely hurt at their conduct. She said why did he not *pocket* it if he was affronted, and nobody would know any thing upon it. Dr. Pierpoint is now in attendance upon her (the witness's) family.

Cross-examined by Mr. Russell.—I have lived in this city nine years, and been married the same period. Have been acquainted with Mrs. Isaac nearly the whole time; their acquaintance had grown into great intimacy; intimate also with Miss S. to a degree. [A letter was then put into witness's hand by the Learned Counsel, after reading which she admitted that Miss Shapland and herself had been very intimate.] Mrs. Isaac had been an invalid for many years. Dr. Woodyatt, lately deceased, long attended her; he did so about February last. Mr. P. did not attend her until on the late occasion. Has not been accustomed to hear Mr. Pierpoint called doctor; don't know the reason why the brass plate, with "Surgeon" on the door was removed. Has no doubt that it is taken off, and it is supplied with another one, simply put "Mr. Pierpoint." *She had made out a written memorandum of the whole case, which she was desired to do by the plaintiff;* she made the first memorandum out of her own head; thinks the second conversation was put down *at his* request. Thinks all the conversations were over before she made the memorandum; they were all over; can't recollect the date when she made the memorandum; about a fortnight after they were over; she made her notes at home; not in the *presence* of Mr. Pierpoint, nor as she believes of any one. Had conferred with the plaintiff's attorney only twice; he read over the declaration to her. She did not desire the action to be brought. It was explained in the evidence. Had not read the brief, nor any part of it; never heard the brief read; the declaration was shewn her, but not the brief; had referred to her own notes as her evidence, and concluded it was before Mr. Jervis. Have known Mr. Pierpoint six or seven years; have employed him within the last nine or ten months; had a child with a cut finger, and consulted Mr. Pierpoint upon it; had no right to judge of him by what he did on that occasion; herself and family went to Birmingham on a visit, and took the child; the case turned out seriously, and the child was ultimately cured by a gentleman of Birmingham; I mentioned the case of my child to Miss Shapland, the defendant, in the first conversation; had employed Mr. Pierpoint about a year since the death of Mrs. Isaac, at all events. She meant to send for Miss Shapland before the third conversation, but she sent to me; I did not call there. She did not observe Miss Shapland particularly low, but she was uneasy and thought her sister was in danger. Mrs. Isaac died on the 5th of June. Believes Miss Shapland was very much afflicted at the danger her sister was in; she was very fond of her sister.—[The letter from the plaintiff's attorney to the defendant, threatening an action for defamation was here put in.]—I heard from Mr. Pierpoint that such a letter would be written, but that it would be with

great reluctance on his part, but he would have it done. She heard that the letter was sent, but believed he was not aware that it was sent at that particular time; he afterwards expressed regret that it was sent at such a time. (The time referred to was when Mrs. Isaac was on her death bed.) Witness was admitted into the house when common callers were excluded. Had understood Mr. Pierpoint did not receive any formal dismissal. The calling in a physician without his knowledge was the cause of his dismissal. Mr. Pierpoint only attended her child once. Witness is the daughter of Mr. Cook, of Birmingham, Master of the Grammar School; went on a visit there, and took her child with her.

Mr. J. Hulstone—practises as an apothecary at Worcester. Has known plaintiff seven, eight, or ten years, or more. Plaintiff has practised during that time; he has practised as a physician; don't know in any other way. He has been in the habit of prescribing for his patients as other physicians; and witness has made up prescriptions for him many years past.

Mr. Morris Howell—is an attorney at Bromyard; has been attended by Mr. Pierpoint from the year 1820 to present time; attended him while ill of a fever; prescribed for him as a physician; was particularly satisfied with his skill.

Cross-examined by Mr. Russell.—Plaintiff had attended him as a physician since 1820.

Mr. J. Hyde—is an attorney of this city. Mr. Pierpoint attended him last year and this; attended him in a rheumatic fever.

Mr. Morris—an apothecary, at Worcester; has made up prescriptions for Dr. Pierpoint. Had never seen a tumour of 7lbs. weight, and if he knew that such a state of disease existed, he would *not* administer an emetic; that, however, would be guided by the *habits* of the patient and the symptoms!!

Mr. Russell proceeded to state the defendant's case. He could not help saying that highly as he appreciated the talents, the eloquence, and the industry of his learned Friend, he did not think that he had been competent to have so ably and so *forcibly dressed up* a case as the one he had just dressed up. But *strip it of the tinsel with which it had been ornamented by his learned Friend, what was it?*—why it was nothing more nor less than this—here we have a man dressed in the alternate garb of surgeon and physician, and physician and surgeon, and medical practitioner, coming to claim damages to the amount of 5,000*l.*!! A sum which, if he could gain by his present purpose, and drag from the pocket of the defendant, would for ever consign her to the confines of a dungeon; and for what? His learned Friend had not attempted to prove that his client had suffered *one shilling damages* by the words imputed to have been spoken by the defendant. He spoke of being injured in his profession of a physician, although till very lately he was never known but as a surgeon. The brass plate on the door is knocked off; he brings forward his *pocket* diploma, and then turns round and states that the defendant has *wickedly* and *maliciously*, and with the view to the destruction of his reputation as a *physician*, disseminated the slanderous words. Had he been injured in his *medical* capacity he might have commenced this suit much earlier; it could not be urged that motives of delicacy prompted the delay, for his solicitors were instructed to send a letter threatening the present proceedings at the very time Miss Shapland was sitting by the death bed of her sister. But for the death of Dr. Woodyatt, in February last, this suit would not have been commenced at all, as the Plaintiff well knew that that gentleman would have deposed to his unskilful treatment of Mrs. Isaac. And for his notable diploma, what was it? it cost the sum of 11*l.* in a Scotch University, and was signed by a parcel of curious names, of whom scarcely any one knew any thing. There was *Jac* Kidd, who had appended to his name, S, S, T, D, L, L, O, O, P,—

(much laughter)—and God knows who beside,—*(continued laughter,)*—and this was the document upon which he had the assurance, after propagating his own slander, as he should by and by shew, to demand 5,000*l.* damages. But for the lady whom he had the *honour* to defend, he should accept from them nothing but a total and unqualified decision of her innocence of having uttered the words imputed to her, with a *wicked* and *malicious* intention to do an injury to the Plaintiff in his professional capacity. *All the words uttered against professional men, as every one must know, were not uttered with any such intention.* Their conduct, as well as that of *public* men, was open to *public* canvass; and the Jury would bear particularly in mind the *manner* in which this language was extracted from the lips of the defendant. Gentlemen, it was not uttered in an unqualified manner and in public, but it was *extracted* from the defendant in an *artful* manner, and under the *cloak* of *sacred friendship*, which, as the *defendant* did not herself violate, she did not expect to find violated by a *bosom* friend!! He was sorry, very sorry, to say any thing against Mrs. Clifton, the witness in this case, but he must pronounce that her conduct in acting as a *secret* emissary of the plaintiff—of drawing from the mouth of her *professed* friend the words upon which this action was trumped up—was *most dishonest, most dishonourable, and most unfair.* It was denied by the defendant that she used these words with any *malicious* motive. She used them not with any such intention, nor would they ever have been known, but by the instrumentality and dishonest conduct of Mrs. Clifton, through whose agency and that of the plaintiff, the assertions were propagated and made known. The *ground-work* of this suit was *malice*, and unless *malice* could be *clearly* and *distinctly* proved, they must return a verdict for the defendant. No malice had existed in this action—no pains had been taken to disseminate the words imputed to the defendant by herself—on the contrary, what she said was, as she thought, lodged in the *inviolable* bosom of a friend, to whom she uttered them. Nay, more, the defendant was *artfully* egged on to the expression of her thoughts, by Mrs. Clifton. She had said that her child had been once only attended by Mr. Pierpoint. What was the inference to be drawn from this? why, that she herself made the statement as a sort of corroboration of the unskilfulness of the plaintiff, for the purpose of extracting from the bosom of the defendant every thing which could serve to swell the pretended injury for which this action was brought! It was at this time, that the defendant, in her conscious regard for truth, said to the emissary of the plaintiff, that the reason of Dr. Malden being called in was, that "she was not satisfied with the plaintiff's treatment of her sister; that the emetic was injurious; and that he had not the confidence of the family." They had all heard of the illness of Mrs. Isaac. During the absence of Miss Shapland, on a visit in Herefordshire, some one intimated that as she had long been under the care of a medical gentleman who had not succeeded in removing her complaint, it would be well to try some other professional gentleman. Dr. Pierpoint was then called in, and it was imagined that he might effect a cure. On the defendant's return from Herefordshire, Mrs. Isaac was found to be in a dangerous state, and then Dr. Malden was called in to succeed Mr. Pierpoint. So because the defendant, in her anxiety to do the best for the unfortunate situation of her sister, had called in Dr. Malden, Mr. Pierpoint, with his attorney at his back, demands to know why he is dismissed, and afterwards, through the medium of his emissary, drags from the lips of the defendant the real cause of that fact, becomes his own slanderer, and then claims damages to the amount of 5,000*l.* for publishing his own detraction!! Looking at the situation of the defendant, and believing as she did, that her sister was fast approaching the vale of death, through the improper treatment of Mr. Pierpoint, the utmost latitude should be granted to the agitated state of her feel-

ings; and here he could not avoid saying that she had most seriously to complain of the art of Mrs. Clifton, and might exclaim, "It is not an enemy has done this, or I could have borne it; but it was thou, my friend and my companion." The defendant had suffered severely indeed, and the bitterness of her woe was much and deeply aggravated by the recollection that "how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a treacherous friend." The learned Counsel then proceeded to remark, he should prove that Mr. Pierpoint, after the *most minute examination* of the STOMACH of Mrs. Isaac, asserted that there was nothing there which should not be there, and that ALL would be well after the stomach was cleared. Mrs. Isaac did fancy herself a little better, after taking the emetic, it was true, but it was fallacious. The emetic given by Mr. Pierpoint, brought on the inflammation, and in this state, and when her pulse was at 109, he administered *brandy* and water to her. At the very moment that Mr. Pierpoint had said there was *nothing* in the stomach but which ought to be there, there was a tumour existing, weighing no less than 7lbs. And this is the knowledge of the *surgeon* and *doctor*, and *doctor* and *surgeon*, and medical practitioner. He would now proceed to call his witnesses, to prove the justification put on the record, and he confidently expected a verdict for the defendant.

Mary Brownell—Lived as servant to the late Mrs. Isaac. Remembers Mr. P. being called in to attend her the latter end of March; was at home when he came. Mrs. Isaac was up stairs when he came. She went to bed in the evening: Mr. P. came in the evening and was shewn to her bed-room. Mrs. Isaac was very deaf. Mrs. Isaac went to bed to undergo Mr. P.'s examination. Witness was in the adjoining room when Mr. P. examined her: the door was quite open: was near enough to hear the conversation which passed: Mr. P. spoke loudly. Mrs. Isaac desired him to examine her stomach; she said she thought there was an enlargement of the stomach—something growing in it. Mr. P. kept feeling her stomach and asking her whether he hurt her; when he came to a particular part she said that was the place that hurt her: he continued to feel a little while. On being asked, he told her not to alarm herself, there was *nothing* there but what ought to be there, and would be all well when the bowels were cleared. In a few minutes he went away; he was five or ten minutes examining her. Some pills and medicine came after that—an emetic: Mrs. Isaac took it; it operated very violently. Mr. P. called the same evening; he asked how it had operated; he asked to see what the stomach discharged; he was surprised to see so much. During the operation she strained very much, and was in pain. Mr. P. came next morning; Mrs. Isaac told him that she was a little relieved, but that her stomach was very sore. Mrs. I got worse after that. Recollected after the visit to Hawford, meeting Mr. P. in the street, and he asked how her mistress was; I said she was no better; he said she must continue the medicine. She drank brandy and water *twice* a day. Mr. P. called upon Mrs. I. once or twice at Hawford. She was taking brandy and water at that time; she took it for about a month twice a day; she took no brandy and water after Dr. Malden was called in: took the brandy and water by Mr. P.'s directions. Miss Shapland was not at home when Mr. P. was called in. Mrs. Isaac was at Hawford when Miss Shapland returned: Miss S. saw her and the state she was in; she was much distressed and afflicted at her state: they were always very loving sisters. Knows Mrs. Clifton by sight; Mrs. C. was very friendly in Mrs. Isaac's house; she was admitted when Mrs. I. was ill: she used to visit four or five times a week—one day twice. Every lady that came was not admitted to her bed side. Mrs. Isaac died the 5th of June, between twelve and one in the morning. Mrs. C. was very friendly with Mrs. Isaac.

Cross-examined by Mr. Jervis—Her mistress did not tell her that she was comparatively in heaven the morning after taking the emetic; the emetic was

taken between five and six in the evening, and the next morning her mistress said she felt relieved. It operated every ten minutes for about an hour; there was *no bile*—some phlegm—very little food.

Re-examined by Mr. Phillips—Does not live with Miss Shapland. Is married. Dr. P. knew of her drinking brandy and water. The operation of the emetic was very violent.

Dr. Malden—is a physician in this city—has practised since October 1817. On the 27th of April, 1823, witness was called in to see Mrs. Isaac. She was then at Mr. Welch's, at Hawford. She had *many* symptoms of fever; her *pulse beat* 100 in a minute. After being told the symptoms, witness requested her to let him feel the surface of her bowels. Was not so well satisfied of the actual state of the parts *that* time as at the *subsequent one*. Mrs. Isaac was *very subject* to an *accumulation of air* in the intestines, and *they* were in consequence much distended. At *that* time she complained of *tenderness* of parts, but not severely. It proceeded from *two* causes, viz. from the accumulation of air and the *inflamed state* of the abdominal contents. (!!) He ordered *some* medicine to be sent to discharge the contents of the bowels—some *opening* pills.—Witness proposed she should be bled, to reduce the inflammatory symptoms; but she rather preferred taking the pills first, not wishing to be bled at Mr. Welch's. She was bled on her return to Worcester, after *proper* time. She was bled in the arm, and *frequently* by leeches on the *abdominal parts*. (!!) These inflammatory symptoms, high pulse, &c. left her after a low diet had been adopted. Told her to discontinue brandy and water, because at *that* time too much fever existed to allow it. He considered it prejudicial in her case.—Examined her a *second* time—discovered a very great hardness in all the upper parts of the bowels; was present at the opening of the body. On opening the cavity of the abdomen there was found a *large* tumour, called the *omentum*, converted into *hard* tubercles. (!!) The enlarged *and* diseased omentum was adherent to the concave surface of the left lobe of the liver. The *stomach itself* was involved in the mass of disease. (!!!) The tumour was not weighed in scales. The joint judgment of those present adjudged its weight to be 7lbs. *He* considered that it must have existed for *many* years. (!) That kind of disease is of slow growth. It was *improper* to give brandy and water at that time, because inflammation existed. If *no* inflammation existed, diluted brandy and water would not hurt her. (!!) If he had ascertained so much disease during the life of the patient, as he afterwards found so extensively existed in the *organic* region of the stomach, he should have held it injudicious to give an emetic; and such extensive organic disease did exist in Mrs. I.'s case, and he found too much to administer an emetic. If the contents of the stomach urgently require evacuations by an emetic, he considered it wrong to administer an emetic *if* it would produce such strainings as would do injury to the organs essentially concerned in the action of vomitment. (!) I should not have administered an emetic a fortnight before if I had discovered such extensive organic disease, which *I hope* I should have discovered. I considered it *possible* that an emetic might have caused an inflammation *if* it acted very violently, and brandy and water would continue the inflammation. (!!!)

Cross-examined by Mr. Campbell.—If inflammation is excited by emetic, it is likely to begin from the time of the vomiting. If a patient recovered a little, and was better a fortnight, he should infer that inflammation did not arise from the emetic. Took his degrees in Edinburgh. Knows nothing at all about Mr. Pierpoint's practice; he is a *particular* friend of mine. (!) Medical men differ upon the expediency of giving emetics upon *particular* cases. Cannot judge of the expediency of giving an emetic without knowing the symptoms. Does not remember Mrs. I. saying that she was fatigued from a long walk. A long walk in her diseased state would cause inflammation. (!) Does not recollect ordering her to continue the pills of Mr. P. Does not remember

what the contents of the pills he ordered were. (!!!) Knows that Mr. P. had attended Mrs. Isaac. I attended her until she died.—So she got a *little* better under Mr. Pierpoint's hands, and died under yours?—She died under me. I did not know that the dispute between the parties was about the treatment of Mr. Pierpoint in Mrs. Isaac's case. (!!) Mr. Pierpoint was *not* present when the body was opened. He had no information of it. The symptoms indicated that she died of an extensive formation of a diseased mass. I can attribute a *part* of the diseased appearances which were seen on the opening of the body, to the emetic taken on the 10th of April. (!!!) It is impossible to take a review of the probable existing cause of the inflammation, and leave the violent action of the emetic out of the question, provided an emetic had been administered.(!!) If she had taken one-sixth before, he should not have left it out of the question if the action had been violent. Could form no opinion if an emetic had been administered two years. If he had never heard that an emetic had been taken, should never have discovered it on the opening of the body. Does not remember having said that in *his* opinion Mrs. Isaac was *properly* treated by Mr. Pierpoint. Swears he never gave such an opinion. Does not remember saying so to Mrs. Richmond in presence of her daughter. Has endeavoured invariably to leave a *favourable* impression on the conduct of Mr. P. when the subject was introduced. It is not improbable that I said so in the presence of these ladies.—I administered calomel in the case of Mrs. Isaac, in small doses.

Dr. Hastings—Is a physician. "My practice is considerable; I reside at Worcester. If at the time Dr. Malden saw this patient, an emetic had been given, I should consider the practice certainly indefensible, and for these reasons:—There was evidently a very large tumour discoverable externally—there was considerable tenderness of the external surface, with a quick pulse, a hot and dry skin, and great thirst, indicating inflammation. If inflammation existed, brandy and water would *doubtless* keep it up. The active inflammatory symptoms might come on in a few days. If a tumour existed, and an ulcer was found, the administration of an emetic would be bad. *Such* a tumour could not be formed in *seventeen* days. Could not say when the tumour became discoverable externally, it was impossible. The tumour could not be discoverable the *same at all times*. A tumour of that size might be discoverable by a careful examination. They vary very much in the *different stages* of their progress." !!

Cross-examined by Mr. Ryan.—Never saw this patient. From the examination of the body he could form no judgment whatever of the treatment of the patient. Could form no opinion as to an emetic having been improperly administered. Certainly could not discover that an emetic had ever been administered. The administration of an emetic when a tumour of 7lbs. was in existence, *might* operate injuriously, by producing irritation and inflammation.

Dr. Lewis—Is a physician, practised four years in this city. *Tumours* are of very slow growth. Conceives an emetic, operating violently for an hour, in the state of Mrs. Isaac, must be injurious. The use of brandy and water when an *ulcer* existed, also injurious. A *medical* man attending a patient seventeen days, ought to discover the tumour.

Cross-examined by Mr. Jervis.—The administration of an emetic, and the patient subsequently recovering a little, would shew the absence of ulceration.

By Justice Littledale.—I should imagine that the *pain* left on the stomach would arise from inflammation.

EVIDENCE IN REPLY.

Mrs. Ann Welch—resides at Hawford; was very intimate with the late Mrs. Isaac; knew her many years; I think I met her at Sir Anthony Lechmere's. She had some very severe illness—sometimes in very good health, sometimes very ill. Mrs. Isaac *did think the emetic did her harm.*—She came

to her house in the middle of April, and left beginning of May. When she came she was in a very indifferent state of health, and grew worse and worse. Remembers her going to Bevere, to return a visit to Mrs. Lucas; walked there and about—did not think the walk did her any harm. Had been at Hawford a week or ten days before that. She grew so much worse, that she consulted with Miss Shapland, and recommended medical assistance. Remembers Mr. Pierpoint coming to Hawford. She (Mrs. I.) thought she was better at first, but worse after. The witness, to spare Mr. Pierpoint's feelings, did not tell him that Mrs. I. thought herself worse.

Cross-examined by Mr. Russell.—*Miss Shapland I am sure would never do any one an injury.* Mrs. Isaac thought the medicines were too strong. Witness always considered Mr. Pierpoint a surgeon, not a physician.

Dr. John Johnson—is a physician at Birmingham, has been in extensive practice for 30 years. Has attended to the expediency of administering emetics. Expediency depends upon the symptoms before giving emetic. An emetic sometimes operates more violently than a physician expects. If a patient is relieved, and does not observe symptoms of inflammation for a fortnight, he should not attribute inflammation to the emetic; where there is no inflammation, well diluted brandy would do no harm. It is a common beverage for persons troubled with indigestion. The *pain* in the stomach, after an emetic, should be attributed to a *muscular* action, and not to any internal inflammation.

Cross-examined by Mr. Phillips. I would certainly not have administered brandy and water twice a day to Mrs. Isaac, at the time she was visited by Dr. Malden, because inflammation was going on. I should not have administered a powerful emetic at first; and should have been particularly cautious what kind of emetic I administered, if I administered any at all. I attribute the soreness felt by Mrs. Isaac, after the emetic, not to inflammation, but to muscular action.

Dr. Boisragen—physician, of Cheltenham. I cannot say that symptoms existing on the 10th April would be the same on the 27th. I think the inflammation in this case arose in *a few days.* I attended Mrs. Isaac myself; I conceive there is no direct proof of any specific injury being done to the deceased by taking the emetic; I should conceive if any injury would arise from an emetic, *in such a case, it would be seen in 24 hours.* I cannot imagine that no ill effects having arisen in 14 days, no injury could have arisen from the emetic at all. If the emetic had been taken on the 10th of April, and inflammatory symptoms continue ten days, I should not think the lady could be walking about a quarter of a mile.

Dr. Thomas Christie. — If inflammation arise from taking an emetic, I should expect it to shew itself almost immediately. *If the patient felt relieved, and walked about for ten days, I should not think it possible that inflammation could have been produced by it.* Whenever there is much vomiting, soreness always arises. I would say that a patient going a journey of four miles, and walks half a mile a week or ten days after, I should think it extremely improbable that any inflammation could have arisen from the emetic. I think, from the evidence which I have heard to day, that no mischief arose from the administration of an emetic.

Mr. Russell replied to the evidence called to support the plaintiff's cause. He contended that the defendant's case had been made much stronger by the nature of the evidence which had been adduced from the opposite side. It was in evidence that a *violent* emetic had been administered, and it was also proved that a violent one would produce ulceration. Now he considered if that doctrine could have been controverted by his learned friends, they would eagerly have embraced the opportunity—but they did no such thing—they had not dared to put the question to the medical witnesses they had called, well knowing that it would have proved fatal to them. There could be no doubt

existing on the mind of any one that the administration of a powerful emetic to the poor old frame of Mrs. Isaac must be productive of the most disastrous consequences. What did Dr. Johnson say when the question was put to him? He said—and I wish you to take his judicious answer—that he should have taken great care what kind of an emetic he administered, and that he certainly would not have administered one hastily, as Mr. Pierpoint did. It was also proved by Mrs. Welch that Mrs. Isaac complained of the strength and violence of the emetic.——The learned Counsel concluded his observations by directing the Jury to leave the medical part of the case out of their consideration, and give a verdict upon the question of malice in uttering the words upon which the plaintiff has brought his action.

Mr. Jervis rose to reply. He had, in the first place, according to ancient custom, to settle his account with his learned Friend, Mr. Russell. That learned Gentleman had complimented him on the manner in which he had opened his case—he had spoken of his eloquence—his talent, and so forth. He had long known how to appreciate those sort of compliments. If his learned Friend felt uneasy at the case before the Jury, he would be still more dissatisfied by the verdict which he would shortly see recorded. His learned Friend had done all he could to make a defence, but in so doing he had brought in play all his powerful auxiliaries. He would that he possessed the *deep tones* of his learned Friend, that he might *dole* out his words with such *awful* solemnity. But this was not the only ally which he brought forward. He could *cry with one eye and laugh with the other, (laughter,)* and his *eloquence* was as peculiar as his *tones*. The latter, ever most remarkably distinguished, in his remarks upon the signatures of the profession to the plaintiff's Aberdeen diploma. With what a deep intonation did not the learned Gentleman read over those names—especially the one he was pleased to call Jac Kidd, with the appendages to it of SSTDLLOOP, laying such a powerful emphasis upon the OOP *(loud laughter.)*—The learned Counsel then proceeded to rescue the diploma of the College of Aberdeen from the ridicule which the Counsel for the defendant had so unsparingly and unjustly heaped upon it. He would tell his learned friend, and if he did not know it he would be obliged to him for telling it to him, that the names attached to that diploma were among the most eminent in the country. The first name subscribed was that of Dr. Browne, a man eminently distinguished by the production of a prize work proving the existence of a deity. The other subscribers to the diploma were men of the first reputation and character, and as for the *Jac*, to which his learned friend attempted to attach so much ridicule, he must inform him that it was an abbreviation of *Jacobus*. It was in evidence that Dr. Pierpoint had been a member of the College of Surgeons since the year 1811, and every one knows the severity of the scrutiny which candidates for that honour had to pass through ere they could obtain it. The Counsel for the defendant had endeavoured to make it appear that his client was a quack, but with what degree of credit or of truth the Jury could easily judge. Now with respect to the presumed delay in bringing this action, what were the motives which urged it? he would tell them—they were motives which did infinite honour to the feelings of the plaintiff. It had been asserted that had Dr. Woodyatt lived, this action would never have been brought at all. Nothing could be more groundless than this assertion, as he should make it appear. The fact was that Dr. Pierpoint had been induced to delay proceedings in consequence of the representations made to him that the adoption of such a course just at the period it was about to be carried into effect, might be productive of the most unhappy effects to the defendant. The plaintiff then generously forbore proceedings, and it was only now that the action was brought. *Ample time had been afforded to the defendant to retract her expressions and apologize for her slander, but so far from doing this act of*

justice, she obstinately refused all concessions—continued the detraction of the plaintiff's professional character, and even to that very day asserted the TRUTH *of her shameless imputations; under these circumstances no* OTHER RESOURCE *was left to the plaintiff* FOR THE VINDICATION OF HIS CHARACTER THAN THE PRESENT ACTION. With respect to the LAW of the case, it was certain that every body must be answerable for the *effect* of the words they may utter. My learned Friend has said you must be satisfied that the defendant had no malicious motives in uttering the words which it has been proved she did utter. He would ask them to look at the justification which had been entered on the record, and then say whether malice had not been proved, and that to the very greatest extent? The learned Counsel then, in a very able and animated strain, defended the conduct of Mrs. Clifton, and complained of the *unmerited* obloquy which his learned Friend had endeavoured to heap upon her *fair* character. Nothing could be more *unfair* or *unjust* than thus to designate a lady, whose conduct and reputation were as upright and as honourable as the proceedings of the defendant were base and slanderous. Mrs. Clifton's mind and actions were as *beautiful* as her *person* and her *manners*. His learned Friend had spoken of her as a *treacherous friend—an intriguing emissary;* and had said, in reference to the defendant, "how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a treacherous friend." All this and much more was imputed to this much respected lady, *because* she had acted in conformity to the wishes of the defendant. Was it not in evidence that *Miss Shapland had said to her*, "*if the subject was ever again mentioned you may say what you please; I cannot describe my contempt for him. I might say that he was such a fool and idiot that I have the greatest contempt for him; I care not what he knows?*" Was there here any proof of that violation of solemn and sacred friendship of which his learned Friend had spoken? None. On the contrary, did not Mrs. Clifton *act the most honourable part to acquaint her friend, the plaintiff, with what the defendant had desired he should be acquainted with?* Assuredly; and so far from lessening her *moral* character, it must greatly enhance her in the estimation of her friends. The learned Counsel then observed upon the evidence of the *medical* gentlemen whom he had brought forward to substantiate the propriety of the treatment which the plaintiff had adopted towards Mrs. Isaac. These gentleman had not been selected from the neighbourhood of the residence of Dr. Pierpoint, nor from any private knowledge they had of him. They were brought from comparatively distant parts, and he referred to their testimony with the utmost satisfaction, as establishing the propriety of the plaintiff's treatment of the deceased lady. For those medical gentlemen *who resided and practised in the same town with the plaintiff, it might be supposed, without much want of charity, that they were actuated by feelings of a* PECULIAR *nature, and it might not therefore create much astonishment that they should view the matter in a* DIFFERENT *light to those gentlemen who were strangers to any such feeling.* Mr. Jervis concluded a very able reply by calling upon the Jury to give *exemplary* damages, for the vindication of the slandered reputation of the plaintiff.

Mr. Justice Littledale summed up, and, in the course of his observations, said that the Jury must find for the plaintiff, but that the expressions uttered by the defendant might somewhat be accounted for, from the *very strong affection* which it was proved she bore her sister.

The Jury retired about five minutes, and returned a verdict for the plaintiff —*Damages, Thirty-nine Shillings.*

That allowance should be made for the "great affection" Miss Shapland "bore her sister," we admit; but to us, and to many who are acquainted with the *private* particulars of this case, it is evident that Miss Shapland did not "utter the slanderous expressions" on her own judgment, but on what

she considered good *medical* authority, which had been conveyed to her for the laudable purpose of prejudicing the mind of Mrs. Isaac against Dr. Pierpoint; and we must do Miss Shapland the justice to say, that she is the last lady in the county of Worcester, who would wantonly attack the professional character of any man, especially of one who had a numerous family depending on his success in life. Had Miss Shapland been a witness on this trial, such evidence would have been extorted from her by Mr. Jervis, which would have dissipated the cloud in which the *origin* of the affair is involved, and have most satisfactorily accounted for the determination of Dr. Pierpoint to prosecute the person beyond whom he could not trace the libellous expressions, in a manner that would enable him to convict him in a court of law. Notwithstanding the severe remarks Mr. Russell made on the "treacherous" conduct of Mrs. H. Clifton towards her *friend* Miss Shapland, (mere common legal trickery without any cause whatever,) we are sorry Miss Shapland did not act with the same candour, and instead of allowing the action to be defended in her name, have honourably given up the name of the person who had poisoned her mind against the practice of Dr. Pierpoint by false representations, for the sole purpose of "worming" himself into the connexion. The evidence of the medical witnesses, both *pro* and *con*, affords much matter for serious comment. The defendant attempts to justify her slanderous expressions, by proving, by the evidence of Dr. Malden and others, that the practice Dr. P. had adopted was not applicable to the case of her sister, and that having in fact hastened the progress of the disease, and of course the dissolution of his patient, the words were not misapplied!!

Dr. Malden, who had been called in after the dismissal of Dr. Pierpoint, condemned the exhibition of an emetic, because the patient had experienced pain when he examined the abdomen, and this pain *he* attributed to an "accumulation of air in the inflamed state of her *abdominal contents*" (!!!) and because, on his *second* examination after she had been under his care some time, he discovered a "*very great hardness* about the upper part of the bowels." A *strong* emetic, in his opinion, would produce much mischief by occasioning much straining. The evidence of the emetic having been a *strong* one, was its effects; now it is a well-known fact, that some patients cannot vomit without violent straining, and that on some stomachs, a *very weak* emetic, even five grains of ipecacuana powder, will excite considerable nausea and violent vomiting. With respect to a *strong* emetic, we have heard the first lecturers on the operation of medicines say, that a *strong* emetic will act more *mildly* on the stomach than a weak one, by bringing the whole stomach, the diaphragm, and abdominal muscles into action; but when the emetic is weak, the stomach being *slightly* or *partially* nauseated, the patient is obliged to exert himself by straining in order to vomit, and long experience has satisfied our minds of the truth of this doctrine. Now, with respect to the *impropriety* of administering an emetic, because inflammation, and also a tumour, were present, Dr. Malden admits that the patient had been subject to flatulence and distension of the intestines; a certain proof that the canal was in a very relaxed or debilitated state—a state directly opposite to active inflammation. The inflammation, if any existed, was in the peritoneal covering, from over distension; and will any man say, that in such a case, the operation of an emetic was likely to aggravate the inflammation? In fact, was it not, by unloading the stomach and invigorating the muscular coat of the intestinal canal, more likely to disperse it? Besides, even had *active* inflammation existed, was not an emetic more likely to prove beneficial than injurious, by promoting the circulation in the extremities, and equalizing the distribution of blood throughout the system? Mrs. Isaac was not of a plethoric habit, and her general health was much reduced, so that internal congestion, if any existed, was entirely local, and such as would be removed

by a remedy, such as an emetic, which would occasion an equal circulation throughout the system.

The practice of the physician capable of observation, must be limited indeed, who has not witnessed the beneficial effects of spontaneous vomiting in cases of external inflammation, both phlegmonous and erythematous; and the effect of vomiting artificially produced, we have always found to be the same: and will Dr. Malden, or any other *Worcester* physician say, that internal and external inflammation are nôt governed by the same laws? Indeed, if inflammation be the consequence of some impediment to the transmission of blood from the arteries to the veins, an emetic, by its effects on the arterial system, and on the secretion of the skin, is a judicious remedy, inasmuch as it is likely to remove the impeding cause.

Notwithstanding the presence of inflammation (which existed more in the brain of the learned doctor, than in the bowels of the patient,) this said doctor admits that he gave calomel and an aperient medicine! Now will an anatomist say, that medicines which increased the peristaltic motion, was not more likely to aggravate the inflammation of the intestines than the operation of an emetic? With the operation of an emetic the intestines have nothing to do, and the stomach but little; for the contents of the stomach are forced into the gullet chiefly by the compressing action of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles, and during this state the blood vessels of the viscera are compressed, an effect which is beneficial in cases of internal inflammation, and to it the relief which uniformly follows vomiting in cases of congestion of the lungs and of the liver, is attributable.

With respect to the tumour which was discovered on opening the body, the description of it certainly is most *scientifically* curious. "It was," says the learned doctor, "the omentum *converted* into tubercles." !!! A part of the body, consisting chiefly of membranes and fat, converted into tubercles !!! This is indeed a new and highly interesting discovery in chirurgical pathology !! Who ever heard before of a part of the body being *converted* into tubercles. Tubercles are the growth of *morbid* deposits, and not *healthy* parts converted into *morbid* ones. They are commonly found in the interstices or parenchymatous portion of the lungs and liver, but we never heard of their being discovered in the omentum. Now what was the texture or nature of this said *omentum tumour*? From Dr. Malden's expression, that it was converted into hard tubercles, it is evident that the whole substance was hard. When Dr. Pierpoint first examined the patient, although she was placed on the bed, and it appears, by the evidence of the nurse, that the examination was not a hasty one, he did not discover any thing like a tumour: there was only general fulness. And it is particularly worthy of notice, that when Dr. Malden, sometime after Dr. Pierpoint's dismissal, examined her bowels, he admits that he did not discover any tumour; but after he had subjected the patient to bleeding, purging, small doses of calomel, low diet, &c. &c., he again examined the bowels, when, lo, and behold! he discovers an extensive HARD tumour !!! The tumour was therefore not like tubercles of *slow* growth. A material change had evidently taken place in the omentum in the course of a few weeks, and what was its nature? Mr. Cole, a scientific surgeon of Worcester, opened the body; but Mr. Cole's evidence was not brought forward, and why? Did the attorney for the "justification" consider it of *no* consequence to the defence, or did he consider Dr. Malden's description of it *perfectly* satisfactory and *scientific !!!* .Now, as friends to science and unacquainted with the parties, entirely free from any friendly or hostile feelings towards either party, for both are equally unknown to us, we ask Mr. Cole, or any practitioner acquainted with internal organic disease, if the morbid condition of the omentum, in the case of the late Mrs. Isaac, was not the consequence of general debility and of inactivity of the absorbent vessels of the part?—and if so, was it not accelerated, if not occasioned, by the

abstraction of blood, and the antiphlogistic treatment which had been adopted by Dr. Malden? Experienced practitioners generally look to the constitution of the patient for the *nature* or *cause* of a diseased part, and if, in this case, we were to take into consideration the state of the general health, the stomach, the distension of the intestines by air, &c. &c. we should say, that it originated in debility, and under this conviction we should have employed strengthening medicines: and had we been aware of the predisposition of the omentum to a disease of accumulation, we should have administered an emetic, with the view of bringing the absorbent vessels into action, and of diverting the determination of blood from the part, by increasing the circulation in the skin and extremities; and when the disease had taken place, we should have made an effort by the same practice to have prolonged her life. The diseased condition of the omentum, we are persuaded, from the natural structure of the part, and the diseases to which it is disposed, was a thickening from deposition of lymph and serum in its cellular substance, the consequence of languid circulation and debility of the absorbents; and whoever considers the few blood-vessels and absorbents with which the omentum is supplied, and the extent of its cellular substance, we are certain will agree with us in this opinion. How then, we ask, could an emetic possibly excite inflammation in it?

In cases of enlargement of the uterus and thickening of the rectum, an emetic administered twice a week was a favourite remedy with the late Dr. Cheston of Gloucester; and he prescribed it not only to equalize the circulation throughout the body, so as to counteract the determination of blood to the affected part, but to bring the absorbent vessels into action; and blind or ignorant indeed must be the practitioner who is not aware of these effects. If an emetic were improper in a thickening of the omentum, a part of less vascularity than any other part of the body, how much more so must it be in the same affection of the uterus? In cases of sarcocele, a tumour as much disposed to inflammation as thickening or "*tubercular* enlargement" of the omentum, an emetic, administered twice a week, was a favourite practice with the late Mr. Pott, and the experience of the first surgeons of this country has confirmed its efficacy in such cases.

Now, supposing the omentum had been converted into tubercles, as stated by Dr. Malden, the disease was surely of an indolent or chronic nature, and therefore not likely to be aggravated by an emetic; but even in such a case, would not an emetic have proved beneficial, by exciting the action of the absorbent vessels of the part? Is not Dr. Malden aware that full vomiting twice a week has been highly extolled by the first physicians of this country, as a remedy for tubercular consumption of the lungs; and if it be proper in such cases, it cannot be less so in tubercles of the omentum?

Now with respect to the use of "brandy diluted with water," of which so much was said by Dr. Malden as highly improper, on account of the supposed existence of inflammation, the patient unquestionably suffered from indigestion; and the over-distension of the stomach and intestines with air, afforded indisputable evidence of the cause being *debility*. If so, will any impartial practitioner of experience and just observation, say that brandy diluted with water was not a more proper beverage than malt liquor, or any other vinous article? No practitioner indeed can point out a more proper one. But supposing "active inflammation really existed in the abdominal contents," was it even in such case improper? The late Dr. J. Brown contended that brandy was the most proper remedy for inflammatory fever and internal inflammation, the remote cause being debility; but putting the opinion of any theorist out of the question, what says Experience? In our last Number we gave a case of puerperal fever, accompanied with *extensive* and *active* inflammation within the abdomen, in which spirit of turpentine, a much more powerful stimulus than diluted brandy, or even undiluted brandy, was administered with com-

plete success by Dr. Payne, of Nottingham. Now had the case have terminated fatally, or had another practitioner been called in, after it had been administered, the Doctor might have been prosecuted for ignorance or injudicious treatment, and many hundreds of medical men of this country, blind followers of their teachers, or routine practitioners, might have been found ready to give evidence of the practice being injudicious in the extreme. The experience of others have confirmed the efficacy of turpentine in allaying internal inflammation, the cause of puerperal fever, and also in inflammation of the kidneys and membrane lining the windpipe. We have heard tincture of rhubarb condemned by routine practitioners as a remedy for the common bowel complaints, which prevail in autumn, because it contains spirits and the stimulating properties of cardamom seeds. The tincture, however, is a common popular remedy for bowel complaints, even when attended with griping pains and other symptoms of inflammation, and it never fails either to cure the complaint or afford considerable relief. In case of colic, brandy is a common remedy. This disease is always more or less inflammatory; indeed in bowel complaints, attended with acute pain, indicative of inflammation, every old woman knows that brandy allays the pain and irritation. When cholera morbus, attended with high degree of inflammation, prevailed among our troops in the East Indies about three years since, a patient finding that three out of four died under the system of bleeding, &c. adopted by the medical officers, determined to take brandy, with laudanum, in opposition to his medical attendant. Instead of aggravating the inflammation of the stomach, &c. this stimulating mixture soon terminated the malady. The success of the remedy induced others to take it, and the medical officers not being blinded by prejudice of education, observing the beneficial effects of the treatment, adopted it; the consequence of which was, the disease proved fatal only to those whose constitutions had been previously injured by excessive drinking, and the influence of a tropical climate. The fact is, ample experience has satisfactorily proved that an article which is stimulating to the surface of the body, will allay internal irritation or inflammatory action; and we have known patients afflicted with inflammatory bowel complaints die a few hours after copious bleeding, whilst others, similarly affected, recovered under an opposite treatment. If, then, stimulants, as brandy, spirit of turpentine, &c. have been successfully administered in cases of extensive inflammation of the bowels, in people whose vital powers had not been reduced by previous disease, how much more likely is it to prove beneficial in such a case as that of Mrs. Isaac, (if inflammation did exist) which was attended with general debility? Notwithstanding the evidence of Dr. Malden, Dr. Hastings, and Dr. Lewis, as to the impropriety of administering "brandy and water" in a case of internal inflammation, we tell them, that were we suffering from spasms of the stomach, or colicy pains, even if attended with inflammation, although not Brunonians, we would take *undiluted* brandy, with aromatics; and in doing this, we should only be putting the result of extensive experience in opposition to theory. The assertion that the "stomach itself was involved in the mass of disease," viz. the omentum *converted* into tubercles, in our humble opinion betrays an ignorance of anatomy. The omentum commences at the lower edge of the stomach, and extends *downwards* over the intestines; how could the *stomach* then possibly be involved in the mass? Indeed the description of the morbid structure, and the whole case, appear to us so *overpainted*, that we hope Mr. Cole, who opened the body, will give a description more intelligible to medical men. One circumstance worthy of notice in this extraordinary case is the examination of the body after death. This being so very rarely allowed, in a respectable family, we may with propriety ask why in the case of Mrs. Isaac the examination was made? If it were to obtain evidence to justify the "slanderous expressions" of Miss

Shapland, surely it would have been only common justice in Dr. Malden to have given "*his friend*," Dr. Pierpoint, an opportunity of being present. As he was not present, Mr. Cole will no doubt give a fair report of the real appearances of the omentum, and also the state of the blood vessels, which *confirmed* the opinion which had been given by Dr. Malden during her life time, as to the existence of inflammation, and which in *his* opinion contraindicated the use of an emetic. On the evidence of the other medical witnesses we shall make some observations in our next Number.

In the evidence of Mrs. Henry Clifton, we discover nothing to justify the impudent scurrilous remarks of Mr. Russell. Dr. Pierpoint was her medical attendant, and it is clear that Miss Shapland made the observations to her for the purpose of being conveyed to Dr. Pierpoint; and had Miss S. acted with the same candour, and given up the authority on which she had dared to question the competency of a medical man to exercise his duty, the case would probably have not been brought into a court of law. Dr. Pierpoint finding that he had sustained serious damages by her continued attacks on his professional character, had no other alternative than to prosecute her. In doing this, he not only performed his duty to himself, but to his children, his patients, and the profession in general. That the Doctor is a man of science and sound judgment, no medical man acquainted with him will deny; and the *result* of his treatment of the case of Mrs. Isaac, proves, in our opinion, that it was most judicious, and we ask any man of experience, had she have remained under his care, would she at this time have been alive or dead? At any rate the result would not have been more discreditable to the healing art.

We are at a loss to conjecture the motive which induced Dr. Pierpoint to bring forward his Aberdeen diploma. His attorney should have been aware that it would afford a subject for abuse, and certainly not add to his respectability as a practitioner. The diploma of the College of Surgeons of London is highly respectable, and as it authorises him to practise the "art and *science* of surgery," he could not stand in need of any other authority. To a Fellow of the College of Surgeons, an honorary diploma from Aberdeen, or St. Andrews, is in our opinion a disgrace. A surgeon like Dr. Pierpoint, acquainted with what is termed physic, is a physician, and invalids of common sense will give such a practitioner a preference to the person who is unacquainted with surgery, although he may possess what some impostors have the impudence to term a regular or legitimate diploma. A medical diploma, as Dr. Farr observes, is in general only a cloak for *medical* ignorance.

As we expect to receive, in the course of a fortnight, information that will throw some *interesting* light to dissipate the cloud in which this subject is at present surrounded, or, in the words of Dr. Malden, "the *morbid* mass in which it is involved," we shall postpone our conclusion of this article till our next Number.

GRAVEL, STRICTURE, &c.

We have received the particulars of several distressing cases of gravel, small calculi, morbid irritation of the bladder, and stricture of the urethra and rectum, in which the tincture and infusion of the buchu leaves were productive of the most decided benefit, after the usual remedies, viz. carbonates and subcarbonates of soda and potass, the pure potass and uva ursi, had failed to afford relief. Dr. Barruh, an experienced medico-chirurgical physician, has favoured us with four calculi (the smallest of which is the size of a common pea) which were discharged from the bladder of a female during the use of the infusion of buchu leaves. Dr. Coley, an experienced practitioner of Cheltenham, informs us that he has found the buchu leaves very beneficial both in spasmodic and organic stricture of the urethra and rectum. In one case of urethral stricture, through which he could not pass the smallest bougie, and attended with alarming symptoms, he was astonished to find that after the

patient had taken an infusion of the buchu leaves, with the tincture, three days, he was able to pass a much larger bougie with great facility. A doctor of divinity, aged about eighty years, who had suffered exceedingly from excessive irritation of the bladder and prostate gland, or rather chronic inflammation of the bladder, attended with a considerable discharge of mucus with the urine, for fifteen years, states that he received almost immediate relief from the tincture of buchu, (two tea-spoonsful, three times a day, in a large wine glassful of the decoction of marsh-mallow root) and that by continuing its use he has subdued the disease. His digestion, and of course his general health, were also greatly benefited by it. He adds, that he had taken the uva ursi, balsam copaivi, extract of henbane, the carbonates and subcarbonates of soda, and the pure potass, under the direction of the first physicians and surgeons of London, without experiencing the slightest relief from them. A gentleman of Norfolk, who had been long subject to irritative affections of the bladder, says, that by the advice of a friend he came to London to consult a Dr. Prout. The learned doctor made a most imposing display of his chemical knowledge with some litmus paper, his urine, and an alcali. The colour of the litmus paper was slightly rendered red by immersion in his urine, and restored to its former colour by an addition of a weak solution of the subcarbonate of soda. This to the wondering patient was proof positive that the secretion of urine was morbid, and that the subcarbonate was a chemical remedy for it!! The doctor's experiment had some effect; the patient continued under his care, but the remedy failed in correcting the secretion of urine through the medium of the circulation, and his sufferings, so far from being diminished by it, became more distressing. The patient now dared to ask the learned chemical experimentalist his opinion of the buchu leaves. The doctor gravely replied that he had *prescribed* them *once*, and that he had a better opinion of the *uva ursi*. The patient having taken the uva ursi, determined on his return home to give the buchu leaves a trial, the consequence of which was, that in three weeks he was perfectly free from any affection of the bladder or urethra. Now we suspect the chemical doctor never gave the buchu leaves a trial, because we have not met with a case in which it did not afford considerable relief, and many, very many distressing cases that had been pronounced hopeless, in which the infusion and tincture of the buchu leaves completely succeeded in restoring the patients to health. There are many physicians of a certain conceited class who would sooner let their patients fall a sacrifice to a dreadful malady than prescribe an article that was first noticed in the Gazette of Health.

SCALDS AND BURNS.

SIRS,—I have found the composition made according to the following receipt so very beneficial in cases of burns and scalds, that I am induced to solicit a place for it in your valuable work.—Take the yolks of three eggs, beat them together so as to mix them; put them into a frying or saucepan with five ounces of *fresh* butter; place the pan over a slow fire, and when the butter begins to melt, keep them *constantly* stirred for twenty minutes, then strain and stir until cool. If much time have elapsed after the accident, and the part become inflamed, previous to the use of the ointment, apply two or three bread and water poultices. The dressings with the ointments to be changed twice a day. I have used this ointment with decided success in many cases, and even on my own person while labouring under a severe burn of the fingers from phosphorus, and was surprised at its effects. In superficial burns to which this ointment has been applied, I have not observed either suppuration or granulation, the part healed over without either. I cannot in any way account for its *modus agendi*, but beg of you to give it a fair trial the first opportunity that may offer. I am, Sirs, &c. &c. M. D.

Aug. 12, 1824.—*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

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DISEASE OF THE GREAT TOE.

There is scarcely a disease of the feet more painful to the patient, or more perplexing to young or inexperienced surgeons, than the inflammation and fungous affection of the integuments surrounding the great toe, produced by what is vulgarly termed "growing in of the sides of the nail." The causes of this disease are evidently neglect in cutting the nail, and the pressure of the shoe on the extremity of the nail preventing its growth forward.—A respectable merchant of the city of London, afflicted with this disease, having received little or no benefit from the advice of the surgeon whom he generally employed in his family, determined a month ago to consult a surgeon of chylopoietic notoriety. The patient, after briefly stating the nature of the complaint, proceeded to take off his stocking in order that the surgeon might examine it and point out a local treatment. Mr. A. interrupted him, observing that an examination was unnecessary, and that no local treatment would be of any service to it, for the source being a disordered condition of the digestive organs, it would gradually decrease as those organs became healthy. The patient replied, that his digestive organs were never in a more healthy state,—that his general health was not to be improved,—that his sufferings, which were sometimes most acute, were occasioned by the nail, and that it was in fact diseased, and acted as an extraneous substance in keeping up irritation and fungous growth. "Well, Sir," replied Mr. A. with his usual significant sneer, "if you know the disease better than myself, why do you come to me for advice? I tell you, your digestive organs are in an unhealthy state, and if they were not, no such disease could exist in your great toe, or any other toe." "It would be absurd," observed the gentleman, for me to enter into a discussion of the cause or nature of the disease with you; but no surgeon, however high his reputation may be, shall persuade me that the sides of the nail of my great toe have "grown in" in consequence of my digestive organs being disordered, especially when I have no symptom of the organs being disordered; and if you, Sir, will not examine the disease, you shall not prescribe for it."—"Very well, Sir," replied Mr. A. "you and I now agree; you may go elsewhere, for I will not look at your toe. I tell you again, if you will correct your digestive organs, attend to the bowels, and live *rationally*, the irritation will subside, and the diseased part will become healthy." The gentleman, however, presumed to support his own opinion, that the disease arose from a local cause, and was to be cured by local treatment,—that he could not live more "*rationally*," and as to his digestion, it was in fact too good, and this being his conviction, he would not trouble him to prescribe any remedy, or to give direction for diet, &c."—"Well then," said Mr. A. "go to Messrs. Longman and Co. in Paternoster-row, and buy my book, and read page 64, and you will then know as much of your case as I do myself." "Thank you, Sir," said the gentleman, "but as I really think I know as much of the case as you do without the trouble

of reading your book, I shall go from your house to a surgeon, who will no doubt consider it his duty to examine the disease." The merchant accordingly left the house, and drove to a surgeon, who condescended to look at the malady, and in the course of ten days cured it without blue pill, tincture of senna and rhubarb, decoction of sarsaparilla, or infusion of cascarilla with carbonate of soda, or subjecting the patient to the trouble of weighing the meat for his dinner, or to the mortification of abandoning the refreshing draught of water and malt liquor, which he had been in the habit of enjoying during dinner. He immediately removed the diseased portions of the nail, after which the fungous protuberance speedily gave way to finely powdered burnt alum, without the assistance of any internal remedy.

We have noticed this case for the purpose of introducing a new method of treating those affections of the great toe, which has been lately adopted with success by Mr. Houlton, a respectable surgeon of Grove-place, Lisson-grove. We shall give the article nearly in his own words, as communicated to Drs. Copland and Dungleson.

"The affections to which the great toe is liable, are mostly of a painful, and some of them of an alarming character, though they seem to depend upon situation rather than on peculiar organization. The diseases, from the great inconveniences they produce, are worthy of the attention of the profession, although their treatment has generally been committed to unscientific hands. That which I have chosen for the subject of this paper, is one which has frequently been under my care, and which in the first few years of my practice, was very troublesome and difficult to manage; I allude to that affection which is supposed to arise from the nail growing on each side into the substance of the toe, producing much irritation, pain, general enlargement of the part, and not unfrequently a fungous growth, so as nearly to envelop the nail, and attended, in some instances, by considerable discharge. I have been consulted in cases of twelve, or more, months standing, where lameness has been so great as to prevent the individuals from pursuing their usual avocations. The common practice has been to reduce the exuberant fungus by the use of caustic, and to cut and tear away longitudinal portions of the nail on each side, which is not always to be effected with facility; is, moreover, a very painful operation, requiring frequent repetition, and is not uniformly successful; so that some irritable and timid patients will rather bear the ills they have than submit to such barbarous torture. Disgusted with this mode of treatment, I resolved to try the effects of pressure, and have been so happy as to succeed to the satisfaction of myself and patients.

"In these cases the object of practice has been to repress the morbid growth of the part, and to bring the nail into its natural shape, defending, in the mean time, the irritable part from the lateral pressure of the nail. These objects may be effected by scraping the whole length of the centre of the nail until it is very thin, introducing a triangular, prism-shaped piece of fine cork between the nail and toe on each side, extending from the commencement of the nail to the end of the toe; applying a small flat piece of cork, one-third the width of the nail, and equal to it in length, *upon* the extent of the scraped part; securing these by a small strip plaster, and rolling up the toe neatly and firmly with a calico bandage: these should be removed every third day. In

some cases a mild caustic may be required, and slight variations to meet particular cases, but the general plan of scraping, tenting and bandaging, will be found to possess an efficacy equal to any reasonable expectation; and those who have much to do with the painful affection here alluded to, will doubtless, should not a similar plan, or one equally happy, have been tried, adopt a measure that will spare their feelings, their time, and their reputation."

ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

Dr. Vanderburgh, an eminent physician of Liverpool, has published the following case of St. Vitus's dance, in which the sub-carbonate of iron, in large doses, was administered with success.

Ann Lindon, an interesting girl of fourteen years of age, was seized (according to her mother's description, while engaged in her usual occupation of selling vegetables in the new market) with convulsive motions in the left leg and arm, to a degree that prevented her from walking. She dragged the affected leg after her, and could not lift her hand to her mouth without frequent attempts before she succeeded. She had tried numerous medicines and nostrums for upwards of three weeks, without benefit, but gradually became worse.

On the 1st of April, she consulted Dr. Vanderburgh. He found her labouring under confirmed St. Vitus's dance—distortion of the muscles of the face—violent convulsive motions of the head and extremities—with total inability to walk, or conduct any thing to the mouth; the eyes were in constant motion, attended with an involuntary discharge of urine, likewise of saliva, with loss of articulation; the abdomen prominent; bowels costive; pulse natural; appetite good. The involuntary motions continued during sleep; the mind was also considerably impaired.

"Practitioners," observes the Doctor, "differ greatly in the treatment of this disease; some being advocates for electricity, others for depletion, and nearly the whole range of the Pharmacopœia has been exhausted even, in some instances without success. But it is not my intention to tire my readers with a lengthened detail of the various methods of practice which have been adopted. I endeavoured to conquer the disease by purgatives, so judiciously recommended by Dr. James Hamilton." The Doctor ordered three table-spoonsful of the following mixture to be taken every fourth hour:

Take of Epsom Salt, one ounce;
Infusion of Roses, two ounces;
Ditto of Senna, three ounces. Mix.

The intention of this mixture was to cleanse the intestinal canal of its acrid contents; and with this view it was continued eight successive days. The patient had seldom less than four or five evacuations daily, with no other success than removing the prominency of the abdomen, and rendering the fæces perfectly natural.

The 9th of April, the Doctor commenced giving half a drachm of sub-carbonate of iron, four times a day, in treacle; and when the bowels were costive, a small wine-glassful of the above opening medicine.

On the 17th of April, the convulsive motions of the lower extremities were less frequent, and intellects much improved. The Doctor pro-

scribed the sub-carbonate of iron in the dose of two scruples four times a day, and the patient to be immersed in the river every morning, which, notwithstanding the coldness of the atmosphere, she appeared to enjoy.

On the 24th of April, the Doctor discovered symptoms of great improvement; the involuntary motion had subsided during sleep; the eyes and features became more natural; articulation improved; and without help she felt able to walk a short distance. The sub-carbonate of iron and sea-bathing were continued.

The 4th of May, the power of speech was perfectly regained; involuntary motions nearly subdued. The same treatment was pursued, accompanied with as much exercise as possible; and, on the 12th of May, he had the satisfaction of seeing her perfectly restored, and able to attend to her former occupations.

M. Priou, of Nantes, has administered the nitrate of silver, in conjunction with opium, musk, &c. in two cases of St. Vitus's dance, with the most decided advantage. The first case was that of a female, about seven years of age, who had tried all the usual remedies in vain. The following is a translation of his prescription:

Take of Nitrate of Silver, six grains;
Purified Opium, one drachm;
Musk, two scruples;
Camphor, four ditto.

The nitrate of silver being reduced to a fine powder in a glass mortar, add to it the other ingredients, and with simple syrup form a mass, and divide into ninety pills. After taking one of these pills every night and morning for fifteen days, the patient was free from any symptoms of the malady. The disease afterwards returned, when the same remedy was exhibited with the same result. The other patient was of the same sex and age. The disease came on suddenly after a fright. The cold bath and the usual remedies having failed to effect a cure, the pills, according to the above recipe, were administered in the dose of one, night and morning. After the fourth day, in consequence of a perceptible amendment, the parents gave eight pills daily, without the knowledge of M. Priou. They were afterwards continued for a month, at the rate of two, and then one, in the course of twenty-four hours, when the patient was cured.

TIC DOULOUREUX.

Dr. Vanderburgh of Liverpool, has prescribed the sub-carbonate of iron, in large doses, as recommended by Mr. Hutchinson of Southwall, in two cases of tic douloureux. One, Mr. Paffer of Liverpool, who had suffered upwards of two years—(the complaint was perfectly removed in the space of a fortnight;)—the other, Mr. Samuel, of the same place, who had suffered only a short time.

Mr. Bew, of Brighton, surgeon-dentist to the King, has lately published a work on the causes and treatment of tic douloureux, under the title of, "Opinions on the Causes and Effects of the disease denominated Tic Douloureux, deduced from practical observation of its supposed origin, in lateral pressure, distortion or undue contact of the Teeth, but more particularly those nearest the Maxillary Sinus,

and thence conveying its distressing sensations to the more distant extremities of the system; the whole illustrated by three lithographic Engravings, with annexed cases confirmatory of the opinions and suppositions; as also, a peculiar and easy mode of Ascertainment and Cure." Mr. Bew has devoted several pages of the work to a description of the courses of the fifth pair of nerves, and its connexion with other nerves, particularly the eighth and ninth pairs; the physiology of the nervous system; the circulation of blood through the teeth, &c. &c. to account for the "intimate connexion of tic douloureux with the nerves of the teeth, especially those nearest to the maxillary sinus, or that portion of the upper jaw which is devoted to the disposition of the four grinding teeth, denominated the bicuspides and molares."

The unequal pressure produced on a tooth, in consequence of distortion or irregularity in the arrangement, or from pressure during mastication, &c. on an elevated or elongated tooth, from distortion or loose connexion with the socket, Mr. B. thinks accounts satisfactorily for many diseases of the teeth, and especially caries, "by producing rupture of the vessels composing the circulating system of the tooth." It also, in his opinion, "accounts for the accompanying pain which proclaims its progress through the peculiar structure of nervous association; the seat of which," says he, "like another medulla oblongata, ganglion, or brain itself, curiously inclosed in its tunic or membrane, may be seen for a few seconds only, by any one adroitly dividing a *recently* drawn tooth with a smart short stroke of a small hammer."

Mr. Bew having, as he supposes, "fairly accounted for the *flow* and *ebb* of the blood through the teeth and gums, the parts adjacent, and its returning reception into the internal jugular vein," enters on the reasons which induced him to attribute "the origin of tic douloureux to that particular portion of the masticating system, nearest in situation to the maxillary sinus;" *i. e.* the part occupied by the four grinding teeth of the upper jaw. He particularly directs the attention of his reader to the fact he has ascertained, that "pressure is the precursor and promoter of the twitching sensations in the face, termed tic douloureux." He also contends, that the effect of the pressure on a tooth is the same as that of percussion exciting heat or inflammatory action, and keeping up a determination of blood to it.

"I am aware," says Mr. B. "this opinion may by some be opposed, on the score of *distance* from the seat of tic douloureux; but I am equally aware the opposition would be unsuccessful, since mathematical precision, with the point of the compass, might prove its propinquity to demonstration, by the distribution of the branches of the dental nerves in the parts affected actually passing through the bones of the *upper* jaw; while in the *lower* jaw, the trunk, which distributes the nerves to the teeth, is contained in the inferior maxillary canal." To prove that distance "is no impediment to the delivery of sensation by the nervous system," and that "stumps as well as teeth are competent to the conveyance of tic douloureux to the extremities of the fingers," &c. Mr. B. has introduced the following case.

"In the spring of 1819, in the round of my attendance through his Majesty's household, I had advanced professional assistance to the

valet of one of his Majesty's equerries; and in the course of the operation, after having ejected a rebellious and troublesome tenant from his masticating establishment, proposed, on the score of completing his comfort, the expulsion of a brace of small stumps, joined together, between two sound teeth; but in proportion as the point of the *punch* was advanced for the purpose, his courage receded in an equal degree, almost leaving him as destitute of confidence as a Leyden jar of electric fluid, unloaded in the noiseless experiment of exposure to the point of the conductor. A deficit in the treasury ever produces, *I promised;* so it was with my friend the valet, who promised whenever the parties portended perturbation to the peaceable inmates of the mansion, *turn out* should be the *order of the day.* Unfortunately that day arrived much sooner than was expected, but with an aggravation of that which I had predicted; for while in the act of elevating the cravat to the chin of the general his master, the maxillary portions on which the stumps alluded to were placed, appeared as if suddenly pierced by a pointed and burning instrument, which, on the same instant, conveyed the effect of its attack down the line of the face, neck, shoulder, and arm, even to the hand and fingers, which, according to his description, dropt as if in a state of paralyzation; indeed, when he entered my room, he appeared as one struck by that disease, while the description he delivered seemed declaratory of his belief that he really was so, most plentifully mixed with invectives on his own cowardice and stupidity, in presuming to oppose my former opinion. I hushed his alarm, and treated the thing lightly, at the same time grasping the arm, with the intention of trying its power of motion, supposing its inflexibility to have arisen from accidental *jerk*, or *sudden elevation.* Perceiving my purpose, he prayed me to desist, declaring his conviction of fainting even to falling on the floor, from excess of agony, attendant on the attempt. He sat down, and the stumps were extracted as easily as I had before predicted, while dismissal of pain soon admitted the arm's ascension almost to a level with the head, before taking his departure for the Pavilion."

By observations on the original seat of this young man's pain, and the course it had appeared to have taken, from the neck and shoulder, to the extremity of the finger, Mr. B. was led to suppose, from the anguish in the maxillary region, that the immediate dental branch in connexion with the *muscular spiral nerve* had become affected, and particularly that branch of it which runs under the tendon of the *supinator longus*, and turns over the *wrist*, to be distributed to the back of the *hand* and *fingers.* "However," says he, "certain it is, the *cause* of complaint struck the *sensorium* from the neighbourhood of the *maxillary sinus*, and spent the force of its effects on the *arms* and *fingers*, sufficient for the adjustment of any difference of opinion, as *to distance* in the propelling powers of these incomprehensible promulgators of pain and pleasure."

Having noticed the mode of attack of tic douloureux, and the attendant disturbances in the human system, Mr. B. observes, "I deem it my duty to state, that I have met with many persons, in my own practice, long subject to the effects of this complaint, but *wholly*

ignorant of the cause; and this ignorance not only existing in the patients themselves, but in the PROFESSIONAL PERSONS *to whom they had applied for relief.*"

The discovery of the cause or original source of tic douloureux has proved more than half the cure; for on removing the deformity, or compressing a projecting part of the tooth, the effect has ceased; and this Mr. B. has accomplished without having recourse to the painful extraction of the tooth. Under the head of Remedies, Mr. B. makes the following remark:

" Of the various remedies the art medical has offered in mitigation of this malady amidst mercurials and antimonials, laxatives and tonics, the last resorted to has been *carbonate of iron;* and although, in the first instance, exhibiting something like success, on subsequent trials has proved equally inefficacious as the rest."

Mr. Bew concludes his work with the following chapter on the method of ascertaining the original seat of tic douloureux, and on the means which he has found beneficial in its removal, which will not admit of being condensed.

" After having, on the principle of opinion, strengthened by a series of cases, traced tic douloureux to originate in pressure, or distortion of the teeth nearest in situation to the *maxillary sinus,* and thence to the extremities of the corresponding branches of the *dental nerves,* and through others in association, sending off their effects to distances which would almost put belief to doubt, I shall at once enter on the mode of ascertaining the exact situation and seat of the complaint, wherever from the prognostics I have premised its presence may be suspected.

" If, in early stage of the attack, the ready finger of the sufferer will sometimes within the mouth, and sometimes on the cheek, rest on the *present* or *recently throbbing tooth* or *teeth,* and, by awakening sensation, soon ensure detection of the affected; if the throbbing admonitions happen to have been disregarded, the incessant state of attack ascends to the *second stage; heat* and *redness* of the gum succeed the throbbing, which are sometimes self-relieved by spontaneous *bleeding.* Should this not be the case, the aggravation rapidly increases, and the distressing sensations assert their sway on the *nerves* in the third stage, in those *dartings* and *twitches* already described.

" If the eye be not sufficient to detect incipient *tic douloureux* from suspected pressure on a *tooth,* or on *teeth,* let but the index-finger-nail in gentle pressure pass up the cervix or neck of the tooth; and if the pressure of the nail be continued under the gum to the periosteum, or membrane investing the *root of the tooth,* a sensation of pain, accompanied by exclamation on the part of the patient, will proclaim the subject suspected.

" This exclamation on the part of the patient will sufficiently prove the sensibilities of the tooth touched to be in a state of irritation, excited either by undue *pressure* on *its sides,* by *one* or *both* the neighbouring teeth; or by being loosened in its socket, from lateral losses, and thus subjected to an isolated contact with the teeth of the lower jaw, in the act of mastication, producing cause sufficient, without any *visible caries* in the crowns of the teeth, for all those *dartings*

and *twitchings* which designate and denominate TIC DOULOUREUX.

" If lateral pressure, proceeding from the sides of the neighbouring teeth, be observed and ascertained as the cause of irritation, through interrupted circulation; by effecting a passage between the pressing teeth, with a small *watch-spring saw*, or thin flat file, as represented in the second plate, will, by removal of the pressure, speedily place them in repose, taking care to have the separation so perfect, that the gum may be reached with facility; or, by the apex left, the irritation will be rather increased than diminished.

" Where it may be seen, that one tooth, from various circumstances, is so elongated from its socket, or abandoned by its neighbours, as to have become *loose*, from bearing too great a proportion in mastication, the reduction (if possible) of the teeth or tooth, which may come in contact, by rubbing down the prominences with a file, will, by equallizing the service amongst those remaining, be found most remarkably to facilitate recovery from irritation, accompanied by felicitous restoration to stability, on the well-known adage, " *remove the cause, and the effect will cease.*" And should the extremities of the *dental branches*, in sad remembrance of great excitement, at intervals still *twitch* and *vibrate*, a few slight shocks of *electricity* passed on the surface, or through the cheek, by the means of a small *Leyden phial*, of only two inches in length, supported on a glass electrometer, and a little *insulated conductor*, such as are represented near the *saw* and *phial, in Plate II.*, will speedily reinstate them in complete tranquillity.

" To render this electrical mode of treatment more perfect, an apparatus and electrometer, with the *insulated conductor*, as applicable to the human face under tic douloureux, are represented in the upper part of the drawing; while the conductor, nearly as large as in use, being formed of an oblong square piece of baked mahogany, and moveable screw handle, so perforated as to support two brass wires, having knobs at their tops, and hooks at their extremities, insulated by *small tubes of glass*, when attached to the communicating cords of the electrometer, are calculated to convey the *shock* or *spark* at once on the *vibrating nerve*, through the surface of the cheek, or the cavity of the mouth, without unavailingly dissipating its power on the lips of the patient.

" The *Leyden jar*, *saw*, and *dividing file*, are also disposed for inspection."

That acute pain in the branches of the fifth pair of nerves, or in remote parts, may be produced by irritation of the dental nerves, or inflammatory action within the sockets, we will admit, for the whole nervous system is perhaps always more or less disturbed by *local* pain, and pain may thereby be excited in a part morbidly irritable, remote from the original irritation; but that such pains are true tic douloureux, we have our doubts. Tic douloureux is a morbid condition of a branch of a nerve unconnected with inflammatory action, and is indeed often aggravated by the remedies which are generally employed for subduing inflammation. Dental irritation is, however, no doubt a common exciting cause of tic douloureux, particularly when

the diseased nerve is seated in the neighbourhood of the jaw. About two years since, we attended a medical gentleman afflicted with tic douloureux to a most distressing degree; and so convinced was he that it originated in the "grinding teeth," that he had them all extracted; but the operation, although dextrously performed by the first dentist in London, had no effect on the malady. He was afterwards cured by the sub-carbonate of iron; and the case was published by Mr. Hutchinson, with many others, as evidence of the efficacy of large doses of the remedy in subduing this truly distressing malady. In the month of June last he experienced a return of the malady, after having been nearly free from it two years, when he again had recourse to large doses of the sub-carbonate of iron, but it totally failed to afford any relief. He then went to Paris, where he was cured by the blue pill, with hemlock, and the Peruvian bark.

The remarks of Mr. Bew, on local pressure of irregular teeth, and the effects of irritation of the dental ramifications of nerves on the general health, are valuable; and being the result of long experience and sound observation, will no doubt meet with that attention from the profession to which they are entitled.

COW-POX.

We have much pleasure in giving the following copy of an article lately communicated to Dr. Macleod, of London, by Mr. James Hardy, of Sheffield; being from the pen of a surgeon of sound judgment and experience, and one who is desirous to publish unvarnished facts for the benefit of his fellow-creatures, and the promotion of medical science.

"The occurrence of small-pox after vaccination is a subject which, from its importance, has attracted the attention, not only of the medical profession, but of the world in general; and although the subject has been treated in a very copious and scientific manner, it is far from being exhausted.

"There exists in the public mind a very great difference of opinion respecting the propriety or efficacy of vaccination: indeed, the opinions of members of the medical profession are far from being unanimous on the subject; and, whilst that is the case, there is little prospect of the public mind becoming so. Under these circumstances, I think it the duty of every one to communicate such facts as may have fallen under his observation, which may have a tendency to elucidate the subject.

"Having lately had the fortune to meet with several cases of this disease, it has induced me to choose this as the subject of my paper. Indiscriminate or extravagant praise, although it may temporarily succeed in establishing a remedy, will, unless it be founded in truth, be sure to be detected in the end, and injure the cause it was intended to uphold. Although, perhaps, a great majority of the profession (and amongst which I must be allowed to rank myself,) advocates the cause of vaccination, yet I do not conceive the subject established on such an immutable basis as to preclude any change of opinion. It is justly remarked by Dr. Gregory, in a valuable paper which appears in the last volume of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, that these unplea-

sant occurrences are on the increase, and no certainty exists that they have yet reached their maximum. I have for a long time wished to satisfy myself, whether vaccination is capable of affording different degrees of protection in the same subject. Dr. Gregory, if I understand him correctly, unhesitatingly decided in the affirmative. Undoubtedly, we witness occasionally after vaccination every degree which small-pox is capable of exhibiting; yet how are we to decide whether this be owing to the degrees of protection afforded, or to peculiarity of constitution in the patient? Vaccination may have gone through its course in perfection in both cases, not only in appearance, but in reality; it may have produced the greatest effect which it is capable of producing, and yet, in some constitutions, not be a preventive of small-pox.

"Most writers, who have treated the subject, lay great stress upon the appearance of the cicatrix: as far as my experience enables me to judge, much reliance is not to be placed upon this circumstance. I have witnessed the disease in nearly every degree under almost every appearance of the cicatrix, and I am inclined to think that, in general, when vaccination produces a pustule containing virus capable of re-producing the same disease, it has effected all which it is capable of effecting.

"Case I. March 3, 1824.—B. M. aged thirteen years. She has been vaccinated; the cicatrix was distinct, about middle size, and slightly cellular. She had very high fever, with delirium; the eruption soon became vesicular, and became pustular about the seventh or eighth day of the disease: it was very numerous on the arms, but moderate on the face and body. On the ninth day, they began to decline very rapidly, and the fever had quite subsided. On the sixth, seventh, and eighth days, there was considerable swelling. On the thirteenth day, I found her playing in the street. The pocks had almost all disappeared, and there was no secondary fever.

"Case II. March 7, 1824.—M, aged one year, was vaccinated at the Infirmary, Sheffield, about four months ago: the pustules (two) were very much inflamed, and sore for a long time; in fact, they are only just got well: they suppurated several times; they are now of a moderate, not large size,—not cellular. The disease was very mild in this case; the eruption was small, and not numerous, except about the knees and one or two other places: they all died away about the third or fourth day. It was attended by very little fever.

"Case III. March 14, 1824.—G., about three years of age, was vaccinated at the Infirmary about a year ago; the cicatrix is of the common size, rather faint; and his parents state that he had a very fine pock, which went through the regular course. He is now under the influence of small-pox (the ninth day): the pustules are very numerous, though generally distinct, and they do not appear to be at all modified. The fever is, perhaps, rather less than might be expected.

"April 2.—The pox continued quite as long as in the natural disease.

"Case IV. March 13, 1824.—M., fifteen years of age, sister to the subject of Case II., has been vaccinated: cicatrix middle size, faint.

"21st.—She has had the disease very slightly: the pustules exceedingly small, not numerous, and disappeared in four or five days. The general indisposition was but slight.

"CASE V. March 20, 1824.—B., nine years of age, sister to the subject of Case I.: cicatrix similar to Case IV.; considerable fever; the pustules very few and small.

"26th.—She was well in a few days.

"CASE VI. April 2, 1824.—D. H., betwixt two and three years of age, has been vaccinated, and there are two distinct moderate-sized cicatrices. An eruption of small-pox came out on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of March, numerous but distinct: they are rather smaller than in the natural disease, but appear to be running through the regular stages. The fever was very high, and the patient died on the 10th of April.

"There have been many cases of small-pox in unprotected children, in the immediate neighbourhood of this case and of Case III; and yet it is a singular fact, that these two cases were more severe than any of the others; a circumstance which, it is natural to suppose, would have a tendency to prejudice the minds of those acquainted with it against vaccination.

"CASE VII. April, 1824.—L. W., nine years of age, was vaccinated at the infirmary, when an infant: there were two distinct cicatrices on the arm. The eruption was moderate, and began to decline in about eight days.—A sister of the above, three years old, and who was unprotected, received the small-pox infection from her brother, and had the disease rather mildly.

"CASE VIII. May, 1824.—L. I., a brother to the subject of Case VII., was vaccinated by a woman in the neighbourhood: has a distinct and cellular cicatrix. He had considerable fever, and a slight eruption for a day or two.

"CASE IX. March 17, 1824.—Mrs. F., twenty-six years of age, had the small-pox naturally when a child, and some of the cicatrices are very distinct. Fever commenced on the 14th, is very violent, and she has had a convulsive fit to-day, and is sometimes delirious. An eruption, similar to small-pox, is making its appearance.

"19th—The eruption has made the usual progress, is not very numerous, and the fever is considerably abated. The skin surrounding the pocks is, perhaps, more inflamed than usual.

"25th.—The disease appears to be scarcely, if at all, modified.

"CASE X. May 17, 1824.—Samuel F., three years old, son to Mrs. F., was vaccinated at the infirmary this day week; has had a fit to-day, with symptoms similar to his mother's, with an eruption. The vaccine vesicles are small, and appear to be not at maturity.

"19th—He is better: the eruption is more numerous than that of his mother.

"25th—There appears to be no difference between this disease and natural small-pox.

"CASE XI. May 17, 1824.—F., another child of Mrs. F., four months old, was vaccinated at the Infirmary this day week: has slight fever, and a trifling eruption. The vaccine vesicles are arrested in their progress; they appear as they usually do on the fourth or fifth day.

"25th.—The eruption never came to maturity, but remained small and shrivelled, with an increase of fever. The child died this morning.

"Case XII. May 26th, 1824.—L. E., seven years of age, sister to the subject of Case VII. &c. She was vaccinated at the Infirmary when one year old: there is a fair and distinct cicatrix on the arm. She is now very full of small-pox: they came out on the 19th, and appear to be unmodified; they are of the distinct kind, but very numerous.

"Case XIII. June 5, 1824.—S., aged three years, has been vaccinated at the Infirmary; has a brother and a neighbour labouring under small-pox. An eruption came out this morning.

"12th.—Disappeared in a few days.

"I saw another case at the same time, closely resembling the above; and another since.

"Dr. Gregory says, that 'small-pox after vaccination unquestionably prevails in particular families, showing that in them there exists some peculiar susceptibility of the variolous poison. Various instances of the kind have fallen under my own immediate observation.'

"It will be perceived, from the cases which I have related, that the same circumstances occurred to me; but, in my opinion, the circumstance of exposure is a more probable explanation of the fact than the one given by Dr. Gregory; particularly as the cases given by him in illustration, as well as those related by me, occurred nearly at the same time, and in subjects of very different ages."

Sheffield; June 16th, 1824.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

Sirs,—In your 38th Number, page 42, there is a note on spontaneous combustion of a human body. I have since imagined that I had made some observations thereon in your pages, but on reference it appears that I only *intended* so to do, an occurrence with me not unfrequent. Being resident at Ipswich in 1767, I well knew the surviving family of Hester Pitt, or Pett, the account of whose spontaneous combustion stands recorded in the Transactions of the Royal Society, and has been quoted by Dr. Trotter, and by numbers of the medical faculty both continental and British.

I certainly shall not, in opposition to such high authority, presume directly to question, in this case, either the truth of the facts, or the soundness of the hypothesis; but I know that the whole is strongly ridiculed by certain persons of no mean talent, and of competent physiological acquirement: by many others it is viewed in the light of a pious fraud to deter men and women from the beastly and destructive vice of habitual inebriation. Pious frauds, however, do not belong to medical doctors. I know not whether the information I obtained respecting old mother Pett, as they called her at Ipswich, be entitled to any consideration in a physiological view or not; but that I submit to the decision of the reader. Her son, Captain Pett, his daughter and granddaughter, all of whom I personally knew, were living at Ipswich

at the above cited period, which was about five or six-and-twenty years subsequent to the supposed spontaneous combustion of the old woman, as both witch and drunkard. How she became a witch, or what proofs she exhibited of her mission, I never heard; or whether or not she pretended to any rivalship with her ancient sister of Endor. As to how she became a drunkard, nobody will be curious on so common an occurrence. She lived at that jolly and *spirited* period of English history when "a good drunk" might be had for a penny, and clean straw for nothing;' was it miraculous then, that she and such multitudes of her frail sex, should become enamoured of *blue ruin*, and for its dear sake incur even the penalty of temporal damnation by spontaneous combustion? Her son succeeded to her supernatural qualities, at least the reputation of them; but however fond of grog, he was not so devoted as to become a martyr, and to burn for its sake. He was a reputed warlock or wizard; and if only half of that which was related of him were true, the *posse* of witchcraft would be full as firmly established as that of spontaneous ignition. Captain P. through the patronage of the devil, who every one knows is prince of the air, had always a fair wind; and I have been assured most seriously, by various seamen, who really believed so much, that they had seen thirty or forty sail of ships and other craft, fast wind-bound in Harwich harbour, and at the same instant had also seen with astonishment, Pett in his sloop, sailing out of the harbour with a fair wind, and without the smallest impediment—even scudding along before the wind! As to the cause and mode of the old witch's death, as related to me by cotemporaries and neighbours, and their opinion thereon, they are as follows:—There was a fire in her room, the night preceding the catastrophe, and she was found, or rather the remains of her, which were not easily combustible, in the morning. It was thence rationally concluded that being drunk at night, and incapable of getting into bed, she fell—first, asleep, and secondly, into the fire, and was burned to death. Her reputation as a witch gave interest and currency to her story, and it was soon discovered and bruited abroad, that the mode of her exit fully confirmed her infernal connexions, as nothing remained of her (true or false) but certain small bones and her toe and finger nails. To doubt of the reality of these signs, or of the old woman's *call* as a witch, in Suffolk, among the enlightened, would at once stamp a man as an infidel; but such an idea as spontaneous combustion had not been revealed, at least generally. After all, in what year was that theory first published? Surely the real cause of mother Pett's death did not wait to be developed and ascertained, until the nativity, or revival, of the hypothesis of spontaneous ignition. Drunkards are infinitely multitudinous, cases of the *finale* by that mode of combustion, rare indeed.

Whilst I was at Colchester in 1762, or 1763, a certain ancient schoolmistress, who, like old mother Pett, had been, during many years, in the diurnal habit of dosing herself with not a few comfortable *draps* of jackey, came to the *finish*, precisely in the same style, and leaving much the same testimonial relics. She was a near neighbour of Dr. Colin Hossac, the translator of Van Swieten. I well remember the doctor's jolly red face, and also that he was *our* physician once too

often. The doctor, robust himself, did not approve of doing things by halves, being in the habit of prescribing a good rattling purgative. He was not probably apprized of the possibility of such a *diathesis* in the human body as spontaneous ignition, or he might have been moved to inspect the *reliquiæ* of the schoolmistress, in order to inform the learned world whether, tinder-box like, a voluntary light had been stricken within her.

I plumed myself no little, that I, an irregular, in fact a mere *medicaster*, should have the honour to agree with you regular and learned doctors on that really important subject, the power and effects of the atmospheric stroke on corn and vegetables. I published my sentiments thereon about twenty years since, in my New Farmers' Calendar; and should have made some additional and practical observations, but am at present unable to refer to the No. and page of the Gazette in which your remarks appeared. My further notice of the subject, must then be referred to some future opportunity. In the mean time, I am, Gentlemen, &c. &c.

Clarendon-street, Somers Town, JOHN LAURENCE.
Sep. 1, 1824.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

CÆSAREAN OPERATION.

This formidable operation was performed about five months ago at Great Malvern, in Worcestershire, by Mr. Waldon, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, aided by Mr. Warren, with a more favourable result than has happened in the practice of any surgeon in this country. The most remarkable part of the case is, the patient had had three children, and the labours had been far from being tedious or difficult. About two years previously to her last pregnancy, her general health had greatly declined, and during pregnancy she became so leucophlegmatic as to border on general dropsy. Her system was in fact in such a state of debility, that she was not able to walk across her bed-room; the consequence of which was, that she was, during the last seven months of her pregnancy, either always lying on the bed, or sitting in a chair. A few hours after labour had commenced, Mr. Waldon found the pelvis to be so distorted as not to admit of the introduction of the forefinger, and the delivery *per vaginam* being in consequence impracticable, and the child being alive, Mr. Waldon immediately determined on extracting it, and giving the mother a chance of recovery, by performing the cæsarean operation; and for this purpose he solicited the assistance of his friend Mr. Warren, a scientific surgeon of the same village. The patient no doubt, in consequence of her debilitated state, lost very little blood on the division of the integuments; but on the first incision into the uterus, the discharge of blood was very considerable; on completing this part of the operation, so as to expose the child, the hæmorrhage immediately ceased. The child and placenta were then removed, and the uterus very rapidly contracted. The integuments were then brought together, and retained in that state by adhesive plaster and

bandages, and in a short time she was almost free from pain, and for the three following days appeared to be going on most favourably. Unfavourable symptoms then supervened, and she rapidly sunk. Her general health was so bad at the time labour commenced, that had it been natural, it is probable she would not have survived it a week. On examination of the pelvis after death, the bones were found very soft. The child appeared to be healthy, and our correspondent at Malvern informed us a few days since, that it was likely to live. So far then, as saving the life of the child, the operation succeeded; and, had the woman been healthy, her life would probably have been also saved.

It appears by a foreign journal that Mr. Bosch, surgeon to the general hospital of Maestrecht, has lately performed this terrific operation twice, with complete success. Both the women were young. The incision in both was made in the linea alba. If the reports in the foreign journals, particularly those of France, are entitled to credit, the cæsarian operation is not only very simple, but uniformly successful in that country. In this country we have not, at this time, any recollection of its having proved successful. The Editors of some of the continental journals are, we suspect, not only great dreamers, but very fertile in that species of invention termed the marvellous.

SUDDEN DELIVERY.

Several interesting cases of sudden delivery have lately been published, with the humane view of shewing, that at least some of the instances of children having been deposited in privies, might have been accidental, and the parturition being nearly free from pain, the female might not have even been aware of what had happened! We are informed by a French physician that a remarkable instance of easy delivery lately occurred at Arras, in France.—A woman, 22 years of age, in the last month of pregnancy, was suddenly affected in the night with acute pain in the abdomen, and considering it was what is called a "bowel complaint," she immediately proceeded to the "*garde-robe*." She had scarcely taken her seat when the child was expelled *without any pain, and fell into the privy, and she declared she was totally ignorant of what had happened till she heard the child cry!!* She immediately gave the alarm, and in about three hours the child was extricated from its odoriferous situation in an apparently lifeless state. Respiration was excited by the usual resuscitative means, but it continued only a few minutes.

In the cases of supposed infanticide which have lately been brought into the criminal courts of law of this country, it does not appear that the children, which so suddenly passed through life into a fœcal repository, were heard to cry, or did the mothers give any alarm to the neighbours, or information to their friends of what had happened. In tropical climates, and among savages, quick and almost painless parturition is very common, and we have met with some cases in which delivery was effected by one slight pain, but never with one without any pain.

SCARLET FEVER.

Professor Koreff, in a letter addressed to Dr. Laennec, a celebrated French physician, states, that the experience of thirty years has convinced him, that the belladonna is a powerful preventive of scarlet fever. Dr. Brendt, of Custrin, affirms that all who employed this remedy escaped the infection; and his account is corroborated by Dr. Munsbeck, of Demmin, in Western Pomerania, who says he has used it for seven years with equal success; and he administered *it* to all those who dwelt in the houses where scarlet fever prevailed, continuing its use until desquamation of the cuticle had taken place in those attacked. Dr. Dusterbourg, of Warbourg, has also published an account of a series of experiments, confirming these statements; and several subsequent memoirs have appeared, all equally corroborative of this power of the belladonna. The formula generally recommended, is a solution of two grains of the extract in an ounce of some distilled water, of which, to children from one to ten years of age, three or five drops were given four times a day; from ten years of age and upwards, from six to ten drops were given four times in the course of twenty-four hours. In one of our earliest Numbers, we have noticed the effects of a few drops of the tincture of belladonna, taken twice a day, in securing the system against scarlet fever. By allaying nervous excitement, or reducing the nervous power, it no doubt would afford us much security against the contagion of small-pox, measles, hooping-cough, and other infectious diseases; and we suspect that the henbane, hemlock, and white poppy, (much safer anodynes), would act as effectually as the belladonna. Cautious physicians, in making an experiment, proceed on something like a scientific principle, or are guided by analogy; but the reason assigned by Dr. Hahneman for having prescribed the belladonna as a preventive against a scarlet fever, is so very curious, that we cannot pass over it without some notice. The Doctor says, "Having observed that very *small* doses of the medicine produced symptoms analogous to those of scarlet fever, I was led to the hope that it would prove an *antidote* to the disease." A *simple* physician would have supposed, from its effects resembling the disease, that it would rather aggravate it than otherwise. The foreign physicians have a very happy knack of making the results of their experiments bend to their pre-conceived opinions; and so common is this practice throughout France, Italy, and Germany, for the purpose of advertising the names of the scientific and observant experimentalists, that not one report of the efficacy of a new medicine, or one result of an experiment out of one thousand, is entitled to attention, or rather proves, on fair trial, to be correct. Notoriety is as much the order of the day with the regular practitioners of the Continent, as it is with the nostrum-mongers, and the detestable herd of pretenders 'yclept *legitimate* physicians, of this country.

DIFFICULT DENTITION, &c.

Dr. Hertz, an eminent German physician, informs us that he has found a little of the ointment of the belladonna, (deadly nightshade),

gently rubbed over the part of the face covering the inflamed gum of infants from dentition, not only to allay the pain, relax the gums, and facilitate the progress of the tooth, but also to quiet the system, and even to check the purging so frequently attendant on this process of nature. The size of a small pea has proved sufficient to produce these effects; and if more be employed, it may affect the eyes. The form for making this ointment is given in the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia. When the bruised leaves of the belladonna are carefully simmered in the lard, it is nearly as green as the fresh ointment of elder leaves, and is certainly strongly impregnated with the anodyne properties of the plant. It is much too powerful a remedy for domestic medicine.

In cases of convulsive fits of infants, inflammation of the membranes of the brain, preceding the effusion of serum, termed watery head, locked jaw, hydrophobia, and other cases of violent excitement of the brain and nervous system, the ointment of belladonna, from its powerful sedative quality, is entitled to a trial. In such cases, it may be rubbed over the scalp, or the skin covering the seat of spasms, or inordinate nervous or muscular action. For spasmodic stricture of the urethra, it is a specific.

DRUNKENNESS.

Dr. Cramer, a German physician of some celebrity, has observed, that the dilute sulphuric acid, taken with a mild vegetable bitter for indigestion of inebriates, has, in the course of a few weeks, produced so great a disgust towards even the favourite liquors of the patients, as entirely to destroy the propensity to drinking. It is a fact, that patients who take the dilute sulphuric acid, or the acid elixir of vitriol, which is similar to it, three times a day, are free from thirst, and have no inclination to drink; and the effects on inebriates, noticed by Dr. Cramer, were probably the consequence of its allaying thirst. Dyspeptic invalids, who have unhappily from habit established a strong disposition to take more liberally of the flowing bowl than is necessary to support their system, and wish to abandon a practice which, by dethroning reason, places them on a level with the brute creation, may take the dilute sulphuric acid, with the infusion of columbo and compound tincture of cardamom seeds, in the following proportions:

Take of Infusion of Columbo Root, six ounces;
Dilute Sulphuric Acid, one drachm;
Compound Tincture of Cardamom Seeds, one ounce. Mix.

Of this mixture, three table-spoonsful may be taken three times a day. The sub-carbonate of ammonia, lately recommended by a French physician to counteract the intoxicating effects of spirituous and vinous liquors, has been found, in this country, rather to increase than diminish the intoxicating quality of spirits and wine. In cases of stupor, following excessive drinking, attended with a low pulse and cold extremities, the solution of sub-carbonate of ammonia (spirit of harts-horn) has been administered with decided advantage; but when

exhibited before debility has taken place, or when the system is in a state of excitement, it has prolonged the drunken fit, and may, in such a state of system, prove very injurious, by increasing the determination of blood to the head, and stimulating the stomach.

WOUND OF THE ELBOW-JOINT.

Wounds of the large joints being frequently followed by serious, and sometimes by fatal consequences, the following case of wound of the elbow-joint, which terminated favourably, under the care of Mr. Ripley, a scientific surgeon-apothecary of Whitby, will not be uninteresting to our professional readers.

Thomas Coverdale, a boy about fourteen years of age, was taken to Mr. Ripley, on the evening of the 6th of March, with a wound of the right arm, which had been inflicted about half an hour previously, by a boy, who, in a fit of passion, had thrown a heavy butcher's knife at him. On examination, Mr. R. discovered a deep transverse wound, about three inches in length, a little above the olecranon, penetrating the tendinous insertion of the triceps extensor cubiti, and capsular ligament of the joint, and exposing part of the cartilaginous articular surfaces of the bones. After removing the coagulum, Mr. R. approximated the edges of the wound, and secured them in that state by means of the interrupted suture, and slips of adhesive plaster. To keep the joint steadily extended, a splint was applied in front, and the whole secured by a bandage, which he directed to be kept constantly wet with a saturnine lotion. A strict antiphlogistic regimen was enjoined, and an ounce of Epsom salt directed to be given early the next day.

On the following morning, the boy complaining of sickness and thirst, with much pain and swelling about the joint, fever, &c., Mr. R. took ten ounces of blood from the left arm, and the Epsom salt having been ejected, he ordered a powder of jalap and calomel to be given, and the lotion to be continued. In the evening, the sickness, restlessness, and fever continued; and much pain and tightness over the wounded joint existing, Mr. R. slackened the bandage. The powder not having operated, he prescribed a draught, with Epsom salt, and directed the lotion to be assiduously applied to the arm.

On the 8th, Mr. R. was informed that the aperient medicine had operated, and that he had had an easier night, and the fever had evidently abated. On the 9th he found him pretty free from fever, and on removing the bandages, the swelling and inflammation had much diminished, with very little synovial, or any other discharge. The wound had, in fact, united so favourably, that in the course of a month it completely healed, and in a short time the splints were laid aside, and he gradually recovered the use of the joint.

The exposure of the joint during the half hour before Mr. Ripley saw the patient, and the extravasation of blood into its cavity, led him to suppose that inflammation, and its consequences, would ensue. From the broad insertion of the triceps, not only into the olecranon, and the condyles of the bone of the upper arm, but also its connexion with the capsular ligaments of the joint, its division would only be

partial, which, in Mr. R.'s opinion, accounts for the perfect and speedy manner in which the joint was recovered.

A PENNY PIECE IN THE STOMACH.

A man, aged thirty years, who had swallowed a penny piece, while attempting to perform some dexterous feats, applied, about three weeks after the accident, to Sir Astley Cooper, at Guy's Hospital, for his advice. He complained of a violent pain in the region of the stomach, which was aggravated by every meal. He said that he thought the coin was lodged in the left side of the stomach, from a sense of weight in that part. Having taken castor oil, Sir Astley prescribed one drop of the croton oil, and observed that he *thought* if it did *not* succeed, a forceps might be constructed to bring it up. With respect to the treatment of such a case, the most eminent surgeons of this country, and on the continent, disagree; some ordering an active purgative to be frequently repeated, in order to hurry it through the intestinal canal; and others recommending the stomach and bowels to be kept quiet, that the article may gradually dilate the pylorus, and make its way into the duodenum, without exciting much irritation, or inflammatory action. When we attended the lectures of Mr. Abernethy, on Surgery and Anatomy, we heard him relate a case of a large coin, which, by accident, had been swallowed, and which did not pass through the pylorus for three months; and he attributed the little pain the patient had suffered to the *gradual* dilatation of the pylorus. If the capacity of the pylorus will not admit of so large a substance as a penny piece to pass through it, what advantage can arise from a purgative medicine? By emptying the stomach, the article is more likely to irritate the internal coat; and if it be forced more against the pylorus, in consequence of the stomach being brought into greater action by the medicine, it is assuredly more likely to irritate the pylorus, and thereby diminish its capacity, and indeed increase its rigidity. The most judicious treatment is therefore, in our humble opinion, to let it gradually dilate the pylorus, and to employ remedies occasionally, with the view of keeping down irritation in the stomach, and relax the pylorus, as bleeding, and an anodyne medicine. During our residence at the Hereford Infirmary, a daughter of Dr. Blount, one of the physicians to the institution, about eight years of age, swallowed a shilling, and the doctor finding that purgative medicines had no other effect than to produce acute pains in the stomach, determined to give up any further attempt to hasten it through the intestines. The general health of the child, which had, previously to the accident, been very bad, soon afterwards greatly improved, and the doctor thought that the mechanical action of the coin was of service to her, by stimulating it. The coin was evacuated about two years after the accident, and then the edges exhibited marks of the action of the pylorus on it.

With respect to the removal of a penny piece from the stomach by means of a forceps, highly as we think of Sir Astley Cooper as a *mechanical* surgeon, we suspect, even with the powerful assistance of his ingenious instrument-maker, Mr. Weiss, of the Strand, he will not

succeed in constructing one. If the stomach be distended with water, and the patient be placed in a position that the coin may get to the cardiac extremity of the stomach, its removal might be practicable by forceps.

HYDROPHOBIA.

It having been stated in the daily papers that the experiment of Dr. Magendie, of diluting the blood by injecting warm water into a vein in a case of hydrophobia, had been repeated at Guy's Hospital, we applied to a friend for the particulars of the case; who has favoured us with the following account of it:

"James Drone, in the service of Mr. Hull, of Blackman-street, in the Borough, aged 27, of a *spare* habit, was received into Cornelius' Ward, of Guy's Hospital, about ten o'clock last Sunday evening.

"On the 23d of July last he was bitten by a dog, just above the wrist, near Brixton, and was placed under the care of Mr. Hammond of that place, who lost no time in cutting out the injured part, and afterwards, to render "security doubly secure," he applied caustic to the wound. On Friday he complained for the first time of an uneasiness and tightness about his throat, appeared more irritable than usual, and had a restless night. On Saturday he took a cup of coffee for his breakfast, and swallowed it in a great hurry. He had to clean his master's carriage and water his horses, but he could not summon resolution to do so, without being able to assign any reason for it, and on the following day he could not drink his tea. Mr. Callaway, a scientific surgeon, connected with Guy's Hospital, visited him, and, considering the nature of the case, thought it better for him to be conveyed to the Hospital.

"He complained of great uneasiness, and a feeling of oppression about the chest, more particularly in the region of the diaphragm; his breathing was hurried, and interrupted by frequent convulsive sighs. His pulse was at this time 90, and very firm; his skin hot and dry, and he had also considerable pain in his head, but answered any questions put to him with great propriety. The spasms were strongest on the right side, and the motions of the right extremities could be with difficulty restrained. He was exceedingly restless during the night, and could not bear the least breath of air to play on him, or even the friction of a handkerchief to wipe any part of his skin, as either of these things happening, instantly threw him into violent convulsions; a drop of fluid of any kind falling on his skin, instantly produced the same effect. One grain of opium, and two grains of the super-acetate of lead were administered every half hour, and towards morning this composition was given more frequently, so that he took 40 grains of the super-acetate in nine hours!! One of the gentlemen who sat up with him, drew back the curtain to see if it were day, when a gleam of light fell on his countenance, and immediately threw him into convulsions. He knew the persons about him, and shook them by the hand when he saw them again in the morning. He would, however, start up suddenly in the bed, cry out violently, and then sink down again as if exhausted; and on being asked why he did so, he placed his hand on his chest, and said

he could not help it, but that it was the wind on his stomach and throat. His pulse throughout the night varied from 84 to 100, sometimes rising or falling ten in a few minutes.

"This morning (Monday) he was visited by Dr. Addison, who pronouncing the disease to be hydrophobia, ordered the former medicine to be continued, with the addition of one grain of the resinous extract of the nux vomica, to be taken every quarter of an hour; this medicine was continued until Dr. Blundell came, who had before arranged with Dr. Addison, to try the effect of injecting the veins with warm water, according to the mode recommended by M. Magendie. The medicine he had taken, had, by 11 o'clock in the forenoon, produced a *general* feeling of numbness, and he lay, certainly, quieter than he had done before.

"Dr. Blundell entered the room with several students, and after feeling his pulse, and with an arrangement of features and most profound look, as if about to work a miracle, blew suddenly on his face, which caused him to start up in great agony, and to express himself very severely against the doctor for the torture to which he had put him!! Dr. Blundell said he was perfectly satisfied as to the *nature* of the disease, and that that *single circumstance* might be considered sufficiently decisive of the nature of the malady; it was, in his opinion, a pathognomonic symptom of hydrophobia!!! On some nervous asthmatics, the same scientific experiment has produced the same effect. There appeared, therefore, no time to lose for the trial of the injection.

"The pulse at a quarter before twelve, was 100; the countenance expressed the greatest anxiety, and the breathing, every now and then, was interrupted by frequent sobs. At twelve, the pulse was eighty-four, and very firm and full. At half-past twelve he was bled, preparatory to the operation, as recommended by Magendie, and *twenty ounces* were directed to be drawn. Whilst the blood was flowing, the pulse gradually increased in *frequency* to 110; and being still very firm, it was thought advisable to take a *few ounces* more; and nearly *twenty ounces* more were abstracted; (the pulse during the time this was flowing, increased to 140;) making the whole quantity taken forty ounces, and at the close his pulse was 160!! From the great excitement produced by the tying up of the arm and the bleeding, the patient became almost ungovernable; threw himself about violently, and would not suffer himself to be held.

"Considerable time was lost by not being able to introduce the tube for the transmission of the injection through the same orifice at which he was bled. Mr. Key then dissected the cephalic vein, about three inches below the bend of the elbow, and after introducing a probe under it, made a longitudinal opening through the coats on its anterior surface, and introduced the tube. The doing this, with the difficulty there was in receiving the blood as it flowed, owing to his extreme restlessness, delayed the time to half-past one.

"Just as the connecting pipe from the syringe was about to be attached to the tube already in the vein, the pulsation at the wrist ceased, and all were of opinion that there had been too great a loss of something, (either blood or time); considering, however, that the principle might be adhered to, it was suggested, that if a *stimulant*

were injected instead of distilled water, it might succeed in resuscitating him!! A few table-spoonsful of diluted spirit, in the proportion of two-thirds of water to one of spirit, were added to the fluid prepared for injection, and a small quantity thrown into the vein by the syringe!! The action of the heart being felt a little more distinctly, more fluid was thrown in, the whole not exceeding two ounces. The pulsation of the brachial artery could be felt, but not of the radial; and it was considered useless to go farther!! The vital energy became gradually lessened, and at ten minutes before two it was extinct!!

"The patient manifested not the least disposition to injure any of his friends—the surgeons and physicians about him, but merely cautioned them to keep out of his reach, for fear he might strike them undesignedly during his struggles. He had a copious secretion of frothy mucus from the mouth, and was obliged frequently to spit to free himself of it: every action was performed with sudden violence, yet appeared to be under the control of the will. He gave evident proof of his retaining *his senses* to a few minutes before his death, when he sunk into the calm of complete exhaustion.

"The body was examined by Mr. Key, on Thursday, in the presence of several surgeons and pupils.

"The head was first opened, and the following reports made as the dissection proceeded. The external surface of the convolutions appeared rather more vascular than usual, and the congestion appeared a little more in the arterial than in the venous vessels; the anterior arteries of the brain contained globules of air. On making a section of the hemispheres, the red points produced by the division of the vessels, were more numerous in the posterior than in the anterior part of the brain. In the lateral ventricles, about three drachms of fluid were found, and there was air in the veins of the choroid plexuses, and also in the veins of the corpora striata; the pineal gland contained no phosphate of lime. The posterior arteries of the cerebrum also contained air. On turning out the brain, there were several projecting bony ridges from the spheroidal fossa, which felt very sharp on the finger being passed over them. Two considerable projections also were found on the basilar process of the occiput, one on each side, just above the anterior condyloid foramina. By making a section of the thalami nervorum opticorum, the left thalamus presented a considerable difference of colour from the right; it had a greenish tint, with a slight shade of yellow. The locus niger, of the same side, displayed by section a similar appearance. This appearance had been noticed before by Mr. Key, in a person who died of lock-jaw; and in another, who died last summer from hydrophobia, large patches of bony matter were found in the falx major, nearly the size of a split kidney bean.

"The spinal marrow was next examined, by carefully sawing through the arches of the vertebræ; and having cut through the theca vertebralis, the pia matter was carefully attended to, and three small ossific deposits were found on its surface, in that part of the canal between the fifth and eleventh dorsal vertebræ; two of these patches were about the size of a pin's head; and the other about

the size of the bulb on a common probe. The blood in the sinuses of the medulla spinalis was quite fluid, and also in the sinuses of the brain. No other peculiarity could be noticed in this part.

"The tongue was also examined; but *no pustules could be found about the fræmum or any other part, as described by Dr. Xanthos and others.*

"The lining membrane of the wind-pipe appeared coated with a dark-coloured mucus throughout nearly its whole extent, as did also the membrane lining the bronchial tubes. The mucous membrane of the stomach appeared of a reddish colour towards the cardiac extremity, and there were large spots of extravasated blood between this and the muscular coat.

"Some of the saliva taken from the patient was philosophically introduced beneath the integuments of a dog's thigh, and the animal was properly secured, that the effects of this inoculation may be watched."

The experiment, then, was not the same as that which was adopted by Magendie; for the vital powers of the unfortunate patient had been so reduced by the disease, if not by the super-acetate of lead and copious bleeding, that the learned experimentalists found it necessary to add a cordial to the water, (a proportion of spirit of wine,) to resuscitate the patient!! This was indeed proceeding on scientific principles, and shews, at any rate, that the operators possessed great presence of mind. The super-acetate of lead and copious bleeding, had been employed to subdue *morbid excitement*, and diluted spirit was afterwards injected to *excite* the system; all very scientific and proper, no doubt. After the abstraction of *forty* ounces of blood, it appears the operator was not a little perplexed in his attempt to introduce the warm water and spirit into the opened vein! This was no doubt an anxious period of the experiment; and we are sorry our correspondent has neglected to state what quantity of blood escaped before it was finished. In this case, opium and the super-acetate of lead had certainly a fair trial; for, it seems, that in the course of nine hours, no less than twenty grains of opium and forty of the super-acetate of lead were given; and when Dr. Blundell saw the patient, he ordered the medicine to be continued. We regret much that our correspondent has omitted to specify the quantity of each of the ingredients the patient took before the injecting ceremony took place. It is stated, that he was quieted by the medicine, and his limbs appeared to be benumbed by it—a common effect of lead. The patient being of a spare habit, and being also benumbed by lead and opium, abstraction of blood was, we think, carried far enough. Would it not have been more prudent in those philosophers to have injected fifteen ounces of warm water after the first bleeding, and have deferred the second bleeding till they had ascertained the effect of the injection? Had the warm water been injected immediately after the abstraction of blood, the patient would not so soon have died of exhaustion; indeed, it would have been scientific and less perplexing to the operator, to have divided the vein of the arm, and injected the water into the upper part whilst the blood was flowing from the lower part.

On the appearances exhibited on dissection, we discover nothing worthy of notice, except the bubbles of air; the presence of which may, we think, be attributed to the injection of atmospheric air with the spirit and water. As to the bony production, we think no surgeon will consider them as having any thing to do with hydrophobia; and the other appearances, they were, in our opinion, the effect of the treament. To us it appears that there is something rotten in the Borough school. Understanding that Dr. Blundell and his learned coadjutor have been for some time engaged in making a variety of experiments by injecting blood and different fluids into the veins of brutes, we beg to suggest the experiment of injecting the brains of a sagacious animal into the veins of a stupid one. If it should succeed in improving the intellectual powers, it may be turned to great advantage to the human race. The experiment will at any rate excite much *philosophical* discussion in the Bolt Court Medical Society, and might, indeed, bring into action the *cerebral* powers of their *magnanimous* and most *learned* president, Dr. Shearman, who might be prevailed on, by the demure eloquence of Drs. Blackborough and Blunder, to allow Mr. Curtis to attempt to convey a small portion of the brains of a calf by means of his wonderful discovery of a syringe for injecting the eustachian tubes, by which a more direct channel to the interior of the skull might be discovered. By such a *rational* experiment, the learned president might transmit his name as a great philosopher to the latest posterity.

QUININE.

Dr. Elliotson has successfully prescribed the peculiar alcali of the Peruvian bark, termed *quinine*, in several cases of intermittent fever, at St. Thomas's Hospital; and the result of his practice in other cases, has induced him to give it a preference to the sulphate of quinine, which has lately been so much extolled as a tonic medicine by Dr. Magendie, and other chemical physicians of Paris. The doctor has published the following directions for making the quinine:

"Digest bruised Peruvian bark, in a very dilute solution of sulphuric acid, (two ounces to four gallons of water); strain, and add magnesia to saturation, by which means the quinine will be precipitated from the acid, mixed with tannin, and extractive matter, and sulphate of magnesia will remain in solution. The precipitate should be again dissolved in sulphuric acid; again precipitated; and finally washed and dried. A pound of cinchona cordifolia furnishes about an ounce of this impure quinine, or about two drachms of pure sulphate of quinine, by another process, in which the quinine is obtained pure by means of alcohol, previously to its formation into a sulphate, whence the greater real expense of this article."

Dr. Elliotson is not correct in attributing the discovery of the Peruvian bark alcali to the French chemists, for it was noticed by Dr. Duncan, jun., the eminent Professor of Materia Medica, in Edinburgh, many months before any French chemist gave an account of it.

ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

M. Gosse, of Geneva, has lately published a case of acute rheumatism, in which salivation, excited by calomel with opium, (after two bleedings), proved successful. The practice of exhibiting calomel with opium in acute rheumatism, is by no means new in this country, but very seldom, and perhaps never *intentionally*, pushed so far as to excite salivation—an effect which experience has proved to produce a permanent predisposition in the system to the disease. M. Gosse pretends to have discovered, by some chemical experiments, that the blood of patients under the influence of mercury, contains less albumen than the blood of a healthy person; and being, in consequence, more fluid, he thinks it less inflammatory!! The fever and affection of the gums, excited by the continued use of mercury, is therefore, according to his idea, not inflammatory; and the distension of the blood-vessels of the gums, of course, arises from the increased fluidity of the blood!! Dr. Johnson says, that Dr. Farre, Mr. Travers, and many others, have long entertained similar opinions, although they have never made any experiment to ascertain the fact. If Dr. Farre has really "long entertained" such an idea, we should suppose he would not have prescribed calomel in cases of dropsy,—a common practice with him and many other physicians who are not in the habit of drawing conclusions from hypotheses. If mercury be capable of increasing the fluidity of the blood, a man acquainted with the fact must be mad to prescribe it in a case of dropsy from debility. A general practitioner of eminence informs us, that he has not met with a case of acute rheumatism, or of rheumatic gout, within the last two years, which did not yield to the combined influence of the following topical and constitutional treatment, after emptying the bowels by an active aperient, (ten grains of compound colocynth pill, with two grains of calomel), and abstraction of blood when the state of the sanguiferous system indicated its necessity:

Take of Tincture of Colchicum Seeds, two drachms;
Camphorated Julep, six ounces;
Carbonate of Ammonia, two scruples;
——— of Soda, one drachm;
Wine of Ipecacuan Root, one drachm.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three or four times a day.

Take of Olive Oil, one ounce;
Ointment of Belladonna, two drachms;
Camphor, half a drachm;
Liquor of Pure Ammonia, four drachms.

Rub the camphor and oil together in a glass mortar, and then add the ointment; and afterwards shake the mixture in a bottle with the liquor of pure ammonia. The parts affected should be well rubbed every night and morning with this liniment, by means of a little fine flannel.

CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

Dr. Proute, a Prussian physician, in a late publication, ridicules the classification of the diseases of the skin by the late Drs. Willan

and Bateman, and other writers, and boldly asserts, that the only object of those authors was to advertise themselves, and to induce their non-medical readers to suppose, from the classification and long list of species, that they really knew more of the nature and cure of cutaneous affections than their cotemporaries and that to acquire a proper knowledge of them, a man must direct *his* time wholly to their consideration. "Yet (says the commentator) *I* believe no set of practitioners are, or have been, more unsuccessful *in* the treatment of cutaneous diseases than those who employed their brains to imagine nice distinctions, or varieties of a class of disease, for the *benefit of themselves.*"!! Experience (he observes) has satisfied him, that the *skin* doctors, who have made such an imposing exhibition of pretended superior knowledge of cutaneous diseases, have described the different stages of disease, and others, modified by constitution, as *original* disease, and as dependant on different causes. And as to the various modes of treatment which are recommended as applicable to each disease, they are derived, says he, not from practical observation, but from imagination, and are mere baits for the fee!! He divides cutaneous diseases into two classes, viz. acute or inflammatory, and chronic or indolent; the first occurring chiefly in spring, and the latter in autumn. The autumnal diseases, he says, are the same as the second stages of the vernal diseases; and in languid constitutions, the spring affections exhibit the same appearance as the autumnal in people apparently enjoying good health.

The radical or specific treatment *of all*, he says, is the same; but the vernal diseases being attended with inflammatory excitement, they should be prepared for the specific or radical treatment, by subduing the existing inflammation, and also by reducing the system if it be plethoric, or in a state to favour inflammatory action, by bleeding, purging, cooling medicines, and low diet. When the disease is thus quieted, he recommends attention to the general health, and particularly to the digestive organs; and the cutaneous affection to be besmeared every night, or night and morning, with diluted ointment of the nitrate of quicksilver. To keep up healthy digestion, he orders fifteen grains of the sub-carbonate of soda, dissolved in a wine-glassful of camomile tea, to be taken twice a day; and in case the bowels should not be sufficiently relieved every day, he advises a drachm or two of the sulphate of soda to be added to the morning dose, so as to produce a proper fæcal evacuation daily. The blue pill, he says, is unnecessary, on account of the external employment of the ointment of nitrate of quicksilver, a sufficient quantity of it being absorbed to act on the liver, &c. &c. Full purging he condemns. If small indolent ulcerations should take place, he advises the parts to be washed two or three times a day with a weak solution of the muriate of iron. The waters celebrated by the ancient Egyptians for curing leprous and other chronic diseases of the skin, he has satisfactorily ascertained, were all chalybeate, like the Hampstead and Brighton spas. With regard to diet, he is very concise. If the patient be robust, and the disease in an active state, a low diet will be proper; but if the patient be

weakly, and the disease in a languid state, a generous diet should be adopted. With respect to the common diseases of the skin, which authors have so much multiplied and magnified, the Doctor says, "I can say no more, if I preach a whole year." Whatever some physicians of *cutaneous* notoriety may think of Dr. Proute's simplification of the diseases of the skin, we have no hesitation in saying, that there is much truth and much good sense in his comments.

MEDICAL FARCE.

The Editors of the London Medical Repository have given the outlines of a Medical Farce, which, they say, will soon be performed, by a few disappointed physicians of London, under the title of "The Society of Physicians of the United Kingdom; or, The would-be-Fellows;" which, in point of ludicrous pathos, it is said, will exceed the celebrated Bombastes Furioso, and even the dying scene of the celebrated Romeo Coates. The first rehearsal took place at the house of Dr. Shearman; and we understand that Drs. Temple, Cleverly, Birkbeck, Uwins, Clutterbuck, Hancock, Shearman, Tweedle, and Roberts, sustained their respective characters in a manner perfectly satisfactory to the *promptor*, behind the scenes. Dr. Birkbeck excelled the celebrated comedian Liston, in the character of Bombastes Furioso, or the Emperor of the Tweedledees and Tweedledums; Dr. Shearman, as Jerry Sneak, decorated with a white feather, met with great applause; Dr. Uwins admirably supported the arduous and very rare character in the present day, of the Vicar of Bray; Dr. Temple, in the white-washing ceremony, was perfectly at home; Clutterbuck sung a new song, termed Humpty-tum, or, Oh, the old Women of Drone: in the chorus of which, "We Fellows would be"—all heartily joined. Dr. Tweedle, in the character of Harlequin, delivered a most affecting oration on Tweedledee and Tweedledum; Dr. Hancock chanted the favourite Scotch song, Wha wants me; and Dr. Roberts, dressed as a Norwood gipsy, sung, in the Bravura style, the old song of, Marry, sir, you can't be worsted; Dr. Copland supported the Man of Straw with great effect; and the whole cleverly concluded by an Epilogue, very feelingly delivered by Dr. Cleverly.

The professed object of this junto is the promotion of medical science; and therefore they have come to the liberal, or rather politic resolution, not to allow a surgeon or apothecary to take any part in the ludicrous farce, nor even a licentiate of the College of Physicians, who received his licence since the year 1800!!! Improvement of medical science, independent of *surgery*, *chemistry*, and *pharmacy!!!*

The junto declare they have taken high ground, and are as firmly fixed, on as solid a basis, as any *Temple* in the known world. They have ventured to discharge a shot indirectly at the College of Physicians, which they expect will induce them "to pull to," and open their doors to Bombastes Furioso and his courageous army, that they may all participate in the good things of the *new* college. At the poor physicians, with honorary degrees, they have directly

discharged a most tremendous broadside of *puff* balls. Dr. Copland, as *aid-de-camp* to the Emperor Bombastes Furioso, has given this class of practitioners the *distinguished* title of *pseudo-physicians*. On the honorary diploma he has made some very *liberal* remarks: he says the stamp costs eleven pounds; the vellum costs *something*; the blue ribband, wax for the seal, tin box, &c. &c. might cost a pound; and that the profit is divided by the principal professor of chemistry and secretary of the College; and this, as Dr. Johnson very wittily observes, is getting rich *by degrees*. But, most liberal "*Mister Doctor Copland*," did you not pay for the sealed parchment, tin box, &c. which you possess; and was not the profit from it divided among the heads of your college? As to the title of pseudo-physician, we beg to ask the man of common sense, which is most entitled to it—the practitioner who is acquainted with every branch of medicine, and is practically acquainted with disease, or the man who is only acquainted with the different theories of diseases, ignorant of surgery and pharmacy, and not able to recognize the diseases at the bedside of a patient of which he had heard his teacher talk? The degree of M. D. does not, as a late writer justly observes, entitle a person to the denomination of physician; it is, says he, a knowledge of the different branches of medicine only; and that knowledge is not sound until it has been matured by experience. The public is too much enlightened on medical subjects, to be misled by such foolish sophistry. If a man possess a knowledge of medicine, surely it can be of no consequence to an invalid whether he obtained it in London or in an university; indeed, as experience is necessary to make the physician, the practitioner educated in the place which affords, from its hospitals, the greatest opportunities of acquiring it, as London, must surely be better qualified to practise than those who have been educated at an university without an hospital, and where the degree of M. D. is conferred without subjecting the candidate to the inconvenience of an examination, as to his medical acquirements. When a patient calls in the assistance of a physician, he supposes that he is better acquainted with his disease than the attending apothecary; and pray, *Mister Doctor Copland*, is it not common for the apothecary, not only to acquaint the consulting physician with the nature of the malady, but also to instruct him in writing the prescription; and, most liberal Reviewer, has not this imposition been countenanced by the majority of apothecaries, from sordid motives? The fact is, if the patient took a draught every four hours, under the care of the apothecary, he will have to take one every three hours under the direction of the physician!! The best school for a physician is, unquestionably, surgery and pharmacy; and, notwithstanding the liberal remarks and cunning sophistry of Dr. Copland, we tell him and his junto that the physician who is unacquainted with these departments of medicine, although he may possess a resident diploma, is a pseudo-physician; and before he and his colleagues attack the physicians with honorary degrees, they would do right to look a little homeward, lest they should provoke a discussion which would assuredly terminate in their total discomfiture. From the school of surgery

and pharmacy have emanated the first physicians this country has produced. Of this class of pseudo-physicians, as he terms them, were the celebrated Dr. Cullen; Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester; Dr. Rigby, of Norwich; Sir Waltar Farquhar; and, at this time, the leading physician of London, viz. Dr. Babbington. The fact is, the College of Physicians, on taking possession of their new college, intend to admit several licentiates into their body; and the said junto, finding that words will not do, are determined to try what virtue there is in stones.

The junto are also aware that the practice of medicine is getting into the hands of surgeon-apothecaries; and, unless the public be prejudiced against them, the physicians will have nothing to do. In Bath, Mr. Hicks has taken the lead of physicians; and Sir Astley Cooper lately gave a physician a lecture, for having presumed to interfere with the constitutional treatment of his patient. In London, Manchester, Bristol, Liverpool, and Leeds, the consulting surgeons, as they term themselves, are increasing, and put their initials to their prescriptions; and, in proportion as the public becomes acquainted with the qualifications of the different classes of practitioners, the surgeon-apothecaries will become popular, and the practice of physicians decrease. The "Society of Physicians of the United Kingdom," is, in fact, a conspiracy against surgeon-apothecaries; and we hope their honourable intentions will not be overlooked by that respectable class. We hope Dr. Dunglison will not, in future, allow his colleague to insult the profession with such contemptible rodomontade, and bear in mind, that the Medical Repository was instituted to support the rank of surgeon-apothecaries in the medical world. If the conductors make it a vehicle of abuse against their patrons, and employ it to promote the unworthy views of a set of contemptible, disappointed pseudo-physicians, the proprietors may prepare for its speedy dissolution; for the surgeon-apothecaries of this country will not submit to insult.

EPILEPSY.

A naval officer, who has purchased a couple of two-guinea bottles of Dr. Graham's infallible nostrum, the "antispasmodic powder," for epileptic fits, has favoured us with a copy of the second edition of the learned doctor's "Results of Experience in the *successful* treatment of Epilepsy." The first edition of this work we noticed about eight months since, and on the best *authority* we asserted that his celebrated powder was misseltoe, and that the contents of a two-guinea bottle did not cost the conscientious doctor more than *eightpence*, the truth of which the doctor has not dared to deny in his new edition. The sale of an edition, however small, of such a paltry work, is a proof of what may be done by dint of advertising. The late *celebrated* Dr. Solomon expended some thousand pounds in advertising an edition of his "Guide to Health" more than the sale of it produced; but he calculated that the purchaser of every copy would take three or four bottles of his nostrum. This practice we must do Dr. Graham the justice to say is not confined to nostrum-mongers; for scarcely a day

passes over our head without seeing an advertisement of a book in the daily papers on Indigestion, by a physician who styles himself a *member* of the Royal College of physicians. This author, satisfied of the *importance* of his discoveries relative to the nature of the disease, and of the mode of treatment to dyspeptic invalids, expends one hundred pounds more in giving it publicity than the edition produces!!! The fact is, the work, contemptible as it is, "brings grist to the mill," being an indirect advertisement to promote his *guinea* trade.

Dr. Graham, in the preface to his new edition, asserts, "that some very favourable reports have been received, by his agent Mr. Watts, from epileptic patients, who have made trial of the means he has recommended for the cure of this formidable and distressing complaint, and that an *extended acquaintance with the operation and powers of the antispasmodic powder still more strongly convinces* HIM OF ITS SAFETY *and* EFFICACY, *and affords him more ample reason to be satisfied with what he has said respecting it.*" Now, most learned doctor, have not you, and your agent, Mr. Watts, received many complaints of its having totally failed to afford any relief whatever; nay, have you not had complaints of its having proved very injurious? To be frank, is not your assertion, that an "*extended* acquaintance with the operation and powers" of the said "*antispasmodic powder*" convinces you of its *safety* and *efficacy*, a most impudent one, after your correspondence (which is in our possession) with Mr. Rawlison? Have you forgotten the effects of your medicine on his epileptic son? Did you not, in a letter addressed to Mr. R. on the 25th of August, 1823, observe that the bad effects of your medicine had been a source of great mortification to you, and did not that gentleman return the following reply?

SIR,—In answer to your letter I have only to say that my son continues to experience the sad consequences of taking your medicines, and that I fear I shall ever have cause to deplore having allowed myself to be the dupe of an advertisement.

London, Sept. 6, 1823. I. R.

So much for the "*uniform* benefit" epileptic patients have derived from the *antispasmodic* nostrum of the conscientious Dr. Graham!! Now for the cases *of cures* of epilepsy which the doctor has published in his pamphlet. Like all the cases of cures by nostrums, they are anonymous.—A young lady, subject to epileptic fits, having been induced to read the doctor's "results of *successful* experiments," presumed to apply to him for the address of "an elderly lady," whose case he had published as *cured* by his antispasmodic powder. The doctor in reply, expressed an unwillingness to give the name and residence of the lady, but in strong terms urged her to give it a trial. The young lady, entertaining an unfavourable opinion of nostrums in general, took the liberty of making a second application, in which she assured him that she would apply to the *lady* in a manner that could not possibly offend her, and if she had been really cured of so dreadful a malady, she would no doubt have pleasure in being able to recommend a fellow-creature subject to it with a remedy capable of curing it.

She also added, not being rich, she was unwilling to give two guineas for a bottle of the powder without a reference to a respectable person who had been cured by it. To this letter the doctor returned the following answer:—

Madam,—I am always happy in being able to afford assistance to persons afflicted with so distressing a complaint as epilepsy, but the lady you refer to, used the powders some years since, and is *now* dead. (!!!) She was old when she commenced taking the medicine, and had, as the pamphlet expresses, been afflicted above 20 years. If you wish to know whether the medicine has certainly been effectual in cases like yours, and if *you can believe* my assertions, upon your transmitting (post paid) a full statement of your case, I will immediately give you the information desired *with* PERFECT *candour*. Yet it is *right* for *me* to observe, that from what you have now said respecting yourself, it appears that your symptoms differ but little, if at all, from those of a *great number* of persons to whom the powder has unquestionably afforded the most gratifying relief.

Allow me to remark also that if you are indeed ill able to afford two guineas for a bottle, which is a month's supply of the medicine, *(and this is less than the ordinary charges of a common apothecary* for an equal time of attendance), upon your signifying your wish to that effect, a bottle of the medicine shall be sent you for *a guinea and a half*, but it is a very peculiar medicine, not to be bought elsewhere, and requiring great labour and care in its preparation; therefore I believe I may rely upon your word. Moreover, I shall be happy to lend you *friendly* service in the *prescription of adjuncts*, (!!!) should they appear *to me* necessary or advisable when your case is laid before me.

I am, Madam, your most obedient servant,

Carshalton, Monday Evening. T. J. GRAHAM.

To Miss B——, Dover-street, Piccadilly.

It is evident the doctor could not at the time he wrote the above answer, (about six months since) give a reference to one person out of the many he pretends to have cured by his nostrum!!! After reading the above letter, will any man of common sense give him or his nostrum credit for the cure of one case of epilepsy? The letter throws great light on all the anonymous cases of cures which have been published by unprincipled quacks to induce credulous invalids to purchase their *infallible* nostrums.

The doctor's "candour" and liberality must excite the admiration of our readers. The offer of a two guinea bottle, the contents of which cost him about 9*d.* is, we firmly believe, compared with the liberality of some nostrum-mongers, an act of great generosity, and most satisfactorily points out the ruling passion or benevolent object of Dr. Graham in giving publicity to his nostrum. The doctor's remark on the low price of his nostrum, when compared with the charges of a *common* apothecary, will, no doubt, be properly noticed by the apothecaries of Croydon; and we doubt not, his nostrum trade will also meet such due attendance from the police magistrates of that place. The

doctor, we understand, has lately published a Treatise (*practical* of course) on Diseases of the Liver; in opposition to the learned productions of Dr. Faithorne, Dr. Philip, Dr. Shearman, Dr. Solomon, and Dr. Eady; which has already been recommended to the attention of the *medical* profession. We purpose going through it in the course of next month, although he has extended it to a seven shilling volume; and we hope, for the honour of the Reviewer, to find that it merits the character he has given it. If the review turns out to be friendly, we will venture to predict that the life of the once celebrated Medical and Physical Journal will terminate with the present year.

POLISHING MAHOGANY TABLES.

The article employed by the French upholsterers for polishing mahogany tables, &c., is a solution of gum mastic, sandarach and shell lac, in highly rectified spirit of wine, in the following proportions:

Take of Gum Mastic, one ounce;
Shell Lac, three ounces;
Sandarach, one ounce;
Rectified Spirit of Wine, eight ounces;

The gums, after being reduced to a powder, will readily dissolve in a few days in the spirit; but, if it should be wanted for immediate use, their solution may be expedited, by placing the bottle in warm water, (not boiling) and shaking it every ten minutes. The solution is not applied with a brush, in the same way as a varnish, but with a little oil on a piece of woollen cloth fastened to the end of a cork; and to give the surface a high polish, much friction is necessary. The particular mode of using it, we will give in our next Number.

SCOURING DROPS.

The article sold under this name, "for taking grease spots out of silk, stuffs, fine woollen cloth, &c. without injuring their texture or colour," is a solution of the essence of lemon in alcohol, in the proportion of one drachm of the former to three drachms of the latter. The following method is given by the proprietor for using it:—"Spread the article on the table, with a clean napkin under it, and put a few drops on a bit of new or very clean flannel, and rub the spot until it disappears; and then with a clean napkin rub till quite dry."

FLIES, WASPS, &c.

For the purpose of destroying flies and wasps, the infusion of quassia sweetened with sugar, has been found more efficacious than the solution of arsenic with sugar, which is commonly employed; and has the great recommendation of being incapable of doing mischief to the human race, as it is perfectly innocent.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 107.] To NOVEMBER 1, 1824. [Vol. IX.

INDIGESTION, CHRONIC DEBILITY, &c.

We have received two books on indigestion, &c., one by Dr. Shearman, who styles himself a *Member* of the Royal College of *Physicians*, of London; and the other by Dr. Graham, who styles himself a *Member* of the Royal College of *Surgeons* of London,—the celebrated proprietor of a nostrum for the *cure* of epilepsy.

The former gentleman, about ten years since, on finishing, as he supposed, his medical education, commenced his medical career in the metropolis in the character of a critic. Like young men in general, on leaving their medical schools, the doctor thought he was acquainted with the means of subduing the most formidable diseases. The theories of his teachers enabled him, most satisfactorily to himself, to account for all the phenomena of life and disease, and even the modus operandi of remedies. To him nothing appeared more extraordinary than the fatal termination of disease. Like most young men, intoxicated with the theories of their schools, he thought old practitioners fools, but alas! *old* practitioners "knew them to be so." All new publications were then to be most severely criticised by this young Esculapius, the hope of the Shearman family, and properly tested by the theories of his school. The proprietor of the Physical and Medical Journal, supposing the Editor, Dr. Bradley, had, in the book-trade phraseology, "written himself dry," engaged Dr. Shearman to revive the scientific character of the work. The doctor commenced his office with much spirit. After exerting his intellectual powers for some months in analyzing new works, and in making a most imposing display of jargonic medicine, he and his coadjutor, Dr. Bradley, thought that the pecuniary remuneration was very inadequate to their services, and they in consequence determined to "strike for an advance of wages."!! The proprietor not entertaining the same high opinion of their talents, and the value of their cerebral labours, refused compliance; and the gentlemen, supposing that they had been ill-treated by the proprietor, instituted a *New* Medical and Physical Journal, in opposition to the work of their late master, which, in the "way of trade," no doubt, was fair and honourable. The New Journal, in monthly numbers, continued to appear in regular succession, and in each the editors never neglected to boast of its increasing circulation, to the great annoyance of Sir Richard Phillips, their old master. The work, notwithstanding the assistance of Dr. Palmer and Dr. James Johnson, died suddenly; and it was supposed that the *lightening* effect of the *extensive* circulation on the purses of the editors had so sickened the sanguine Esculapius, that he would not again employ his extraordinary talents to *enlighten* the members of the profession, for the benefit of the public, or the traders in books. After spending about nine years in medical practice, or rather retirement, (for in practice the doctor is, we believe,

not known,) he has made another effort to benefit mankind by giving publicity to his name in a new work on *chronic* debility, with the laudable view of communicating the valuable results of his philosophical researches to the *medical* world. The title of the book is, OBSERVATIONS *illustrative* of the *history* and *treatment* of *chronic* debility, the *prolific* source of *indigestion*, *spasmodic* diseases and *various nervous* diseases!! The learned author having termed popular medicine quackery, we may be allowed to ask our professional readers, and, indeed, our non-professional ones, whether this expressive title does not partake more of a popular than a professional character? Is it not, in fact, calculated more to attract the attention of invalids affected with the diseases specified in it, than that of the members of the medical profession? It is common for such scribblers to rail against *popular* medicine, as a dangerous species of quackery, and to give their own works *popular* titles, (mere pithy advertisements,) and to the credit of the profession in general, the works are chiefly purchased by invalids. In fact, their books are as much advertisements for fees, as Dr. Solomon's Guide to Health is for the sale of his pretended "Balm of Gilead." The truth of this assertion, however unpalatable it may be to some legitimate and illegitimate physicians, we are confident no independent member of the medical profession will deny.

When an author assumes a rank to which he has no claim, the inference with us is, that he is a man of no sound scientific attainments; for in the course of our career, we have uniformly found men of real science, to hold pomposity and vanity in great contempt. Dr. Shearman is not a *fellow* of the College of Physicians, and he well knows that the college acknowledge none as *members* who are *not* fellows. They grant licences to graduates of the Scotch and other universities, to authorise them to practise medicine in common or simple cases of disease within their jurisdiction, but such licence does not make them *members*, for with the regulations or government of the society they have nothing to do. When the college was compelled by mandamus to shew cause in the Court of King's Bench, why they would not admit Dr. Archer a *member* of the college, who was then a licentiate, their counsel stated, "that they excluded *none* from practising who may be of *service* to mankind; that the *licentiates* well knew that their examination reached only to the *lesser degrees* of learning, skill, and knowledge, which might serve merely to qualify them to *begin* the practice in the profession they had entered, and that they would not have been judged worthy, upon a stricter examination, to be admitted *members* of the college; that the office of a physician and *member* of the college, required a considerable degree of learning, knowledge, and judgment. That the claim, therefore, made by Dr. Archer, was *unfair*, *unjust*, and *fraudulent*, because he knew the licence allowed him to practise in *simple* cases of disease, so long as he behaved himself well." *Burrows' Reports*, vol. v.

After such a declaration in a court of justice, and a late repetition of it in a work on medical jurisprudence, by a *fellow* of the college, the Doctor must possess no little share of assurance, being only a licentiate, to style himself a *Member* of the college. We would advise

this gentleman to read the celebrated fable of the jackdaw, decorated with the peacock's feathers, and the admirable moral. Now, the fact is, the College of Physicians formerly granted licences to apothecaries, and even to *old women*. The first on the list is not a medical doctor; and in some of the old lists of licentiates, are the names of old women whom they found, "*on examination*, to be capable of being of service to mankind." What is the length of study the college require to qualify a candidate for a licence, or to entitle him to the said "examination, reaching only the lesser degrees of learning?"—Only two years' residence at an university!! Now, is it possible that a man, not educated to medicine, should acquire a knowledge of the different branches of medicine in so short a period as two years, so as to qualify him to undertake the treatment of *any* disease? There are, however, on the list of licentiates, the names of men who two years previously to their obtaining a licence, were in some occupation which had no connection with medicine. Are such men entitled to the same degree of confidence as the surgeon-apothecary, who has served an apprenticeship to his profession,—attended the lectures on the different branches of medicine, and the practice of the London hospitals, (the first in the world),—and who has matured his judgment by experience and observation? The latter class, although superiorly educated, and *practically* acquainted with diseases and remedies, are to be remunerated for their attendance on the sick by the profits arising from the medicines their patients swallow; whilst the former consider themselves entitled to a fee for each visit!! The legislature have, however, by a late act of Parliament, given the surgeon-apothecaries their proper rank in the medical world, by authorising them to practise in *all cases of disease:* and this act places them above the licentiates of the college, who are only authorised to act in *simple* cases of disease; and if patients were to remunerate them for their visits at the rate of five shillings, and send their prescriptions to be compounded either to a chemist's or an apothecary's shop, the humbug of legitimate medicine, and regular and irregular quackery, would soon cease; and that this will be the case throughout England in the course of thirty years, we have not the smallest doubt. Already, as we stated in our last Number, have surgeon-apothecaries started in different parts of England, as "prescribing surgeons;" and in some places, as Bath and Clifton, the prescribing surgeon has taken the lead of physicians. The public is too much enlightened on medicine to suppose a man to be a great physician because he is acquainted with Greek and Latin; and the *new* Society of Physicians of the United Kingdom will find their efforts to oppose common sense, and stultify mankind, ineffectual. Their efforts, as their *late* friend Dr. Johnson very justly observes, will assuredly terminate in disappointment and disgrace. Many hundred physicians of this metropolis are indebted for their success in the fee trade, to that ignorance which renders the practice irksome to physicians of scientific attainments. This long digression from "illustrative observations" of the learned Doctor, we hope he will pardon, after assuring him that *we* consider the preliminary remarks necessary to enable our non-medical readers duly to appreciate the value of his luminous illustrations of animal life, *chronic* debility, &c.

The doctor prefaces his "observations" with the confession that "*He* has met with patients labouring under *symptoms* denoting a deviation from perfect health, in whom some of the functions have been weakly and imperfectly performed without being able to characterise those symptoms by any *generic* name contained in the *systems* of nosology, when it has been difficult to recognize *any positive* disease, but merely a state of debility."

Late nosologists have not given debility a generic rank, because they know that whether *acute* or *chronic*, *simple* or *compound*, *direct* or *indirect*, it is not a *primary* affection, being always the *consequence* or a *symptom* of disease; and that practitioner who cannot trace it to its source, we should suspect of having had little experience, or of being incapable of making observations likely to illustrate the history or treatment of any malady. Had the learned doctor taken the trouble to refer to the nosologies of Sauvages, Linnæus, Vogel, and Sagar, he would have found debility ranked as a genus. Sauvages and Sagar have a class of diseases termed *debilitates*, and a genus of the order Leipopsychiæ, is, Asthenia, which is the debility of the late Dr. Brown, whom the doctor studies to ape; and Linnæus has a class Quietales, the genus of the order *Defectivi*, is, Asthenia; and Vogel introduces debility in his order *Adimaniæ*. The methodic sect have also noticed debility under the head of Atonia. Cullen likewise has made observations on it in his first Lines; and Dr. Struve, an eminent German physician, lately published an ingenious work on debility, and yet the doctor asserts that he has not been able to discover a *generic* name for debility in any work!!! If the doctor had condescended to read the works of his learned cotemporaries, Dr. Solomon, Dr. Brodum, Dr. Eady, and Dr. Jordan, he would have found that these observant physicians have noticed debility as a *primary* disease. The consulting of such would not have derogated from the *dignity* of a *licentiate*, after a *fellow* of the college (Dr. Paris) had condescended to examine empirical books and nostrums with such minuteness as to enable him to give the composition of all nostrums in his *celebrated* Pharmacologia, except indeed that "*valuable domestic remedy* the *essence* of senna." The "*illustrative* observation of Dr. Shearman, that debility is oftentimes more distressing and more formidable than *actual* disease, and not unfrequently as difficult to remove," coming from a practitioner, who twelve years since considered himself competent to determine the merits of all medical works, is worthy of some notice.

Although he has not been able to trace the debility to its source, he has ascertained that "it is oftentimes no less distressing, nor less formidable, than *actual* disease itself, and not unfrequently as difficult to remove." In pointing out "the *causes* producing this affection, to explain their mode of action on the human frame, and to deduce a successful mode of treatment, he states he has endeavoured to steer as clear as possible of all hypotheses, and to advance nothing but what appears to be fairly deduced from our present state of knowledge of the properties and functions of *animal* life." The word hypothesis brought to the doctor's recollection the able review of Dr. Ramsey's work on the "Anatomy of the Brain, &c." which the doctor wrote for his *extensively* circulated New Medical Journal about fifteen years ago,

and so delighted was he with his *original* remarks, that he begs leave to *quote* it before he enters on the consideration of the *causes* of chronic debility, " as it contains the sentiments he then entertained, and *still* retains in this *important* subject."

In this review, which he has laudably endeavoured to rescue from oblivion, not only for the honour of his family, but to convince those who have been misled by the gloomy doctrines of materialism and chance, of the absurdity of their opinions, it appears that, in his investigating the connection between mind and matter, he has made the most important discovery—" that the *mode* by which the *power* of sensation and action is imparted to matter, is *for ever* hidden from the research of man."!! This important fact having been ascertained by so great an anatomist, physiologist, and metaphysician, as *Dr. Shearman*, will of course save future philosophers much cerebral exertion and fatigue, in re-examining the subject. The fact will for ever set the question at rest: it is not within the reach of the intellects of Dr. Shearman, and of course, " held from the research of all future philosophers *for ever*." The great Creator will never impart any further metaphysical knowledge on this subject than that we possess; and, consequently, it must be absurd in the extreme, if not presumptive, to offer any hypothesis respecting it, or attempt to explain it by Galvanic or any other agent. From the phenomena of sensation and action, he pops suddenly on the gradations of life, from the *lowest* vegetable to the most perfect animal; and his reflections on these subjects have given him reason to believe " that *life* depends on *one common principle*, diffused in various degrees to the different orders of *beings*."! The gradations have nothing to do with intellect or forms, only with the proportions of *one common principle*. Man, then, is no longer at the head of the creation, because " this one common principle of life" does not run so high in him as in many animals and many trees!! This is, indeed, a most important discovery for future naturalists; but the most beautiful part of it is, a confession that, of the nature of this common principle, he is perfectly ignorant. He cannot demonstrate it, but conjectures it exists, and that it is the *same* in vegetables as in animals. To the mineral kingdom he has not yet, we suppose, extended his researches. The doctor is favoured with that wonderful power which no philosopher ever yet possessed, viz. of " looking within himself," and of course of *knowing himself*. On " looking within himself," he has discovered powers so *superior* to any possessed by every other animal; and so distinct in kind, as to leave *no room* to doubt of his being animated by a *higher* principle than any other of the various species of animals!! We have paid some attention to comparative anatomy, and, in our dissections of brutes, we confess, we have never discovered any structure less beautiful than that of man; but, on the contrary, in some small animals, more delicate and, in our humble opinion, more admirable than the same parts of the human body. With respect to the mechanism of the animal bodies, man has no reason to boast of having been favoured by his Creator; it is his mental endowments that give him a superiority; but when his boasted reason is compared with the instinct of many brutes, and the manner in which that reason is exercised by many, even of the " first classes of the human race," is

considered, very many have little or no claim to a superiority over some classes of brutes; and as to the reason of some human beings, it only surpasses the instinct of many brutes in artifice and cunning. The doctor has, in his more deep researches and accurate observations, ascertained that "man has the power of *comparing* ideas, of *separating* and variously *compounding* them; the power of *forming abstract* notions, as of *virtue, gratitude, beneficence;* and also the power of *comprehending moral* and *religious* truths; which, says he, are all faculties so *superior* in *kind* to those possessed by any other animal, as at once to separate man from the species *below* him, by an *immeasurable* distance."!!

Immeasurable as the distance is, in the opinion of this learned philosopher, between man and brutes, the former may draw many useful lessons from the instinct of the latter. In a new edition of his "Illustrative Observations," we hope the doctor will point out, with his usual *simplicity* and accuracy, the *cause* of man being more subject to diseases, mental and corporeal, than brutes.

After this wandering, which the doctor flatters himself the "important original matter" will justify, he proceeds to give his valuable "illustrative observations," on the effects of *chronic* weakness. Of debility, he has discovered *two* species, or kinds, viz. *simple* and *chronic*. *Simple* weakness (which, in the brain, makes a *simpleton*), he defines to be either *original*, existing from birth and actual *primary* deficiency, not a diminution of previous strength.

"*Simple* weakness, either arising from *original* conformation of the body, or produced by acute disease, or accompanying old age," the doctor has found to "render the system more liable to be affected by *slight causes* of diseases; and hence," says he, "it becomes *in itself* a serious object of concern;" and in another place he observes, "a state of *perfect* health is quite compatible with an *original* weakness of constitution."!! This is, we presume, by the Society of Physicians of the United Kingdom, (instituted by the doctor and his friends, for the promotion of the science of medicine,) *medical logic:* although the system be in a *perfect* state of health, it is liable to be affected by *slight* causes, and become a serious object of concern!! The *meaning* the doctor wishes to convey to his readers is,—Although your health is good, you are liable to be affected by slight causes of disease; and if you *are wise*, you will not take Dr. Solomon's *sovereign* remedy, but "a *sovereign* prescription from the physician, whose researches have enabled him to trace the different kinds of debility to their origin." After promulgating the important discovery that debility, the *sequel* of disease, may become a cause of a *primary* disease, and an object of concern, the doctor boldly enters on *animate* and *inanimate* matter. The difference, says he, between *animate* and *inanimate* matter is, the *former* is endowed with the power of converting the *surrounding* matter, which, under *certain* circumstances, comes *into contact* with it, into substances *identical* with itself; whilst also the "*mechanical* and *chemical* properties common to matter *in general*," (animate and inanimate), "are in it partially suspended, or variously modified."!! Admirable explanation of the functions of digestion! The inanimate matter *in contact* with

the stomach, is converted into a *substance* identical with itself, whilst its mechanical and *chemical* properties are suspended. Digestion, then, is not effected by the *chemical* action of the gastric juice, and the *mechanical* action of the stomach has little to do with the process, its *mechanical properties* being partially suspended, or modified!! This brilliant idea, at any rate, explains the production of worms in the stomach, and the extraordinary case of a girl in Cork, who has, for some weeks, been in the habit of vomiting many hundreds of black beetles at a time (attested by a Dr. Pickells). The inanimate matter, the food, coming into contact with a worm, or beetle, was converted into substances identical with itself! The power by which these changes are effected, he says, is the *vital* power; the state, by such SUSPENSIONS and *modifications*, is called life. Life, before it comes into action, is, in fact, *suspended* animation. "Life," he says, "has *usually* been divided into *animal* and *vegetable* life; and *these two classes of beings*," are distinguished by the *number* or *extent* of *vital* properties they respectively possess; but the *principle* imparting these properties to each of them, he has discovered "to be, *in identity*, the same; and," says he, "even the gradations between the *extreme* limits of each class, is so *imperceptible* as to be with difficulty recognised." This luminous discovery, at any rate, is a proof of the truth of his discovery, of the ideas being capable of being compounded.

That the laws of chemistry are *suspended* and *modified* in the stomach, the doctor says, is *evident*, from a solution of sugar, or of a farinaceous matter, exposed to a *certain* degree of temperature, *invariably* undergoing a process of fermentation, and being converted into *vinous spirit*, or vinegar;" but when the same solution is received into the stomach of an animal in a strong and vigorous state, it does not at the same temperature undergo the process of fermentation!! The *usual* laws of chemistry," says he, "are not only suspended, but *altered*; for by the action of the *living power*, a new and different substance is produced from this solution, viz. chyle, and at length blood—substances, which cannot under any circumstances be obtained by chemistry out of the body, proving that the *new* law of *chemistry*, as well as of *mechanics*, are *superadded* by life" !!! Most satisfactory proof indeed of the superaddition by life—vegetable products undergo different changes out of the body than they do in the stomach!! Is the doctor so ignorant of modern medicine as not to know that the theory of digestion being effected by fermentation has been long abandoned? Is he not aware of a fluid being secreted by glands of the stomach, termed the gastric juice, which acts as a solvent? In consequence of the *chemical* action of this secretion, the food is first formed into chyme; and as to the "chemical and mechanical properties being suspended," the chemical solution and decompositions are much more rapid than the process of fermentation out of the body. As to chyle, it is not formed in the stomach, but in the duodenum; and its rapid production is a proof that the *chemical properties* of the chyme are not there suspended. As to the conversion of chyle into blood, the doctor, we presume, knows as much of the means by which it is effected, or the viscus which is most concerned in it, as he does of the animating principle of "animal and vegetable beings," to say

nothing of the life of the mineral kingdom, the nature of which he has to examine. The *living* power of the body he has ascertained "to be not only expended in the *various actions* of the system, *constantly* going on, (digestion, secretions, &c.) *but* a considerable portion of it is employed in *preserving* the various parts in a condition fit for action upon an exciting cause being applied." So that if an organ were to exhaust its living power "by over exertion, it would not be in a condition fit for action."

To illustrate this observation, the doctor says, "A muscle *during life* occupies less space than it does *after* death; *consequently*, says he, the *particles* of matter composing that muscle must be *nearer* together. A muscle also in a *quiescent* state, occupies less space at one time than it does at another, according to the degree of strength inherent in the system of the individual. This *approximation* of particles of muscles during life, so much beyond what takes place after death, is an *effect* of the *living power*, and is *usually* called *tone*. A diminution of it by any debilitating cause is denominated *relaxation*." When the approximation of particles is increased by an astringent medicine, the doctor has discovered, although the contraction is the *effect of the living power*, the astringent property of the remedy "acts through the medium of the *living principle*, independent of local application or *actual contact*, and produces universal contraction of the muscular fibres, increasing their power and rendering them capable of stronger action;" and in another place he says, "the effect of the astringent on the living fibre is the result of *chemical* action, and requires the *actual contact* of the astringent substance with the part;"!! but, says he, this is speaking in *ordinary* language, although it is not *actually* true." We suspect the doctor, when he wrote this article, had so exerted his intellectual powers, as to diminish the vital power of his brains, thereby occasioning an heterogeneous compound of ideas.

The doctor's discovery of a diminution of the bulk of a muscle when the "living power accumulates in it," is a decisive proof that the living principle is not *matter*,—a fatal blow to materialism. Now the fact is, a muscle deprived of its living power, occupies no more space than it did during life. It is of the same length and diameter as when in a quiescent state, a fact which has been ascertained by many physiologists. "When a muscle," says the doctor, "is excited by *any* stimulant, the particles composing that muscle come still nearer together than they were in its quiescent state, when the approximation was effected by the *tone*," (the *effect* of the living power) "of the muscle, which is called contraction." The fact is, a muscle in a contracted state, or in action, does not occupy less space than when in a quiescent state, or when deprived of its living power. In the former state it is shortened, but in circumference or bulk it is proportionably enlarged. The particles during the contractions are not more closely approximated, the contraction depending on a peculiar zigzag action of fibres.

When, in consequence of local weakness of the stomach and *upper* intestines, digestion is *imperfectly* performed, the doctor has ascertained that *more* of the living power is exhausted than is *reproduced*

by it, and hence it becomes no inconsiderable source of debility." !! Speaking of the "suspension of the chemical properties of vegetables in the stomach," the doctor stated that the power which caused the suspension, was a superaddition to the body of a principle which was not material, and now he states that this said principle is reproduced by digestion, of course formed from *inanimate* matter. It is, says he, regenerated; but more is exhausted by the process of digestion than is produced by it when the stomach is weak, or the *vital power* of it diminished!! According to the doctor's philosophical doctrines, a person with a weak stomach should not take food, inasmuch as the digestion of it will increase the debility of the organ!! In another place he observes that there is inherent in the animal body, a *principle* of conservation and reparation; so we suppose that a person with a weak stomach should trust to this undefined principle of conservation to increase the living power, and not to nourishment!! As to the manner the different secretions of the body are effected, which has puzzled the first physiologists of the age, the doctor, with his peculiarly happy facility of explaining all the phenomena of life and diseases, and the modus operandi of medicine, states that "they are either separated from the mass of blood by *mere* filtration, or formed from it by decomposition of the elements constituting the blood, *entirely* new compounds being produced." Admirable chemist! new compounds produced by mere filtration!! Decomposition and recombination, certainly very satisfactorily explain the phenomena of secretions. There are many *physicians*, as they denominate themselves, because they possess a paltry diploma, who, because they are acquainted with the chemical nomenclature, really fancy they are also acquainted with the *science* of chemistry; and we have met with some in promiscuous company who have made, by means of their knowledge of some new names of chemical articles and processes, a most imposing exhibition of chemical science, when, at the same time, they were totally ignorant of it.

The secretion of urine, the doctor has ascertained, "may be increased by medicine so as to weaken the system, by carrying off the *mucilaginous* part of the blood; as for instance, by foxglove." !! Foxglove weakens the system by increasing the urine, so as to carry off the *mucilaginous* part of the blood!! Well, well, this is indeed the age of important discoveries. Foxglove induces debility, by diminishing the irritability of the muscular system; and whether it increases the secretion of urine or not, this effect is the same. In cases of dropsy, from either simple, compound, or chronic debility, foxglove, by increasing the secretion of urine, absolutely increases the strength of the body. After some observations on weakness of the mind, which prove that he is practically acquainted with the complaint, he observes, that "Pain in the back," "is known to accompany *every species* of weakness;" "but," says he, "the *cause* of this *symptom* has not been satisfactorily explained." !! To a person, who had been with a surgeon twelve months, the *cause* of this *symptom* cannot require explanation, provided he be capable of observation. The muscles of the back have more to do than any other set of muscles of the body; for when either standing or sitting,

they are in action to keep the trunk erect. When therefore the strength of the body is reduced, or the author's living power is considerably diminished, the muscles of the back will suffer more than any other set, in consequence of their office; and by being exerted to keep the trunk erect, will become fatigued and painful: consequences which soon subside on relieving them, by placing the body in an horizontal position.

The doctor's *long* experience and *extensive* reading, have taught him that "it appears to be an established rule, that in proportion as weakness is more slowly produced, it is more slowly and with the greater difficulty got rid off; that debility therefore," says he, "which is the consequence of long continued *chronic* disease, or which arises from debilitating causes, applied for a considerable period, has *frequently* baffled his utmost efforts to remove it, and becomes itself, in its turn, the source of other and intractable diseases." !! The learned doctor's inferences are drawn from an observation the late celebrated Dr. Hunter made to a patient, who asked what time would be required to cure a *chronic* organic disease. Instead of answering the question, the doctor asked him, how long it had been coming on; to which the patient replied, six years; "Then, sir," said the doctor, "I may succeed in curing it in six years." Supposing the patient did not fully understand him, he asked him how long a certain vermin would be walking across his room. The patient replied, "Why, sir, I think it would not do it in less time than six hours."—"Well, admitting you are right," said the doctor, "how long would it be in returning?"—"Why, sir," replied the patient, "about the same time."—"Then," replied the doctor, "it will require the same time to cure your disease, as it has taken to advance to its present state."

This "established rule" only applies to *organic* disease, and not to general debility of the system; for, ignorant must that practitioner be, who is not aware that chronic, or any other imaginary species of debility, must depend on the nature of the cause; for instance, if produced by a disease of the knee-joint, a patient generally rapidly recovers his former strength after amputation of the limb. That the learned Doctor Shearman, the critic, has met with cases of debility that has "baffled his utmost efforts to remove," we cannot doubt; and such will be the case with all physicians who do not direct their attention to the disease of which the *chronic* debility is the consequence. It is an old saying—remove the cause, and the effect will cease.

In one place, the doctor says that the *vital power* is expended by the exertion of an organ in performing its office; and that, when excessive, it will produce a dangerous degree of debility; and even in the process of digestion, the stomach will be debilitated by it; and in another place he asserts, that the debility is not from exhaustion of the vital power, but rather from the *nature* and *quantity* of the *secreted* fluid, than from the action of the organ; and in a third place, he attributes increased secretion to a deficiency of the vital power, viz. relaxation!!

These absurd contradictions are, in jargonic medicine, consistencies.

To some class of readers, viz. restless hypochondriacs, who purchase every new publication which treats on their maladies; the "living power" of whose brains have been so reduced by a dread of death, as to take "unchemical or confused compounds of the ideas" of the author, for marks of deep learning—as Butler says,

> "The dullest idiots, in disguise,
> Appear more knowing than the wise;
> Illiterate dunces undiscerned,
> Pass on the.....for the learned."

Speaking of the diminished appetite of people whose stomachs, from chronic debility, do not perform their functions, he says the appetite is yet greater than the POWERS *of digestion.* The patient becomes very uneasy after eating; the food contained in the stomach, not only runs into *those fermentations* to which it is disposed when uncontrolled by the *vital power* of the stomach, and hence acidity and flatulence are produced; but, says he, the *mucous* surface of the stomach itself, probably from a relaxation of the glands, *consequent to weakness,* furnishes a more copious secretion of *thick viscid mucus,* more or less vitiated in its quality, in proportion to the deficiency of the vital power in the secreting organs. The contents of the stomach, in this case, become an *unnatural* stimulus to the stomach, and produce disturbances which still further increase the weakness."!! A man of common sense would suppose that, the cause being debility, the production of a stimulus, *either natural or unnatural,* would be fortunate; but not so in the doctor's opinion; for the stimulus being an *unnatural* one (vinegar), increases the debility!! The fact is, the symptoms noticed by the doctor, as productions of an acid, gas, increased secretion of mucus, &c. are those of *increased* excitement of the stomach, an opposite state to debility, and, in this country, a very common cause of indigestion. In consequence of an abuse of vinous or spirituous liquors, the use of savoury dishes, and of gluttony, the stomach, and indeed the whole body, is kept in a state of morbid excitement; not only the sensibility of the nerves, but the irritability of the fibres and the temperature of the stomach, is increased, so that the viscus will not bear distension; a small meal producing a great sensation of oppression. In consequence of this state of the stomach, the saccharine and farinaceous parts of vegetable food ferment with such rapidity, as, in the course of a few minutes, to run into the acetous fermentation; a process which cannot, by any degree of temperature, or other means, be effected out of the stomach. In such case, the vital power of the stomach certainly has no effect in *suspending* the fermentative or chemical properties of vegetables; but, on the contrary, considerably expedites the process, inasmuch as, out of the body, it requires as many days to advance to the acetous stage of fermentation, as it does minutes in the stomach. The rapid production of the acetous acid in the stomach, is probably the consequence of a morbid condition of the gastric juice, from increased excitement. When indigestion is the consequence of increased excitement of the stomach, the circulation is accelerated by a full meal, the heat of

body increased, the face flushed, the head confused, the palm of the hands and feet hot and dry, and the patient is, in general, very nervous and restless, till the stomach is quieted by a cup of tea or coffee, which, by exciting perspiration, reduces the temperature of the body; the same effects are produced by a short nap. In such patients there is no deficiency of muscular power; they are free from what the learned doctor terms chronic debility, or any other species; and their complaint would be increased by the remedies which are proper for indigestion, arising from debility of the stomach. In cases of indigestion, from debility of the stomach, the food does not produce a sense of oppression, unless organic disease exists in the stomach or cavity of the chest, or belly; but, on the contrary, the patient feels relief from it, especially from high dishes. He suffers little from flatulence, and never from heartburn, unless the stomach is ulcerated. Wine and spirits, in moderate quantity, do not inflame the system, or irritate the stomach; but, on the contrary, a little wine after dinner raises the spirits, and tranquillizes the nervous system. If an emetic be given to such a patient two or three hours after dinner, the contents of the stomach appear sweetish to his taste, instead of acid; and the fibres of the muscular part of meat, and the vegetables which were not properly masticated, will exhibit very little appearance of the action of the gastric juice.

If vomitting be produced in a case of indigestion from morbid excitement, half an hour after dinner, the contents will be more or less acid, a considerable quantity of carbonic acid gas will be evolved, and the fibres of meat, and parts of vegetables which have not been properly masticated, will be more separated or decomposed than those brought up three hours after the meal in a person with a debilitated stomach. The effects of opposite passions, or states of mind, on digestion, throw much light on indigestion from opposite conditions of the stomach. It is common for unexpected good news to disturb the stomach of a healthy person soon after a meal; and in such case, the contents when ejected are acid, and exhibit all the appearances as in a case of indigestion from morbid excitement, or feverish state of the stomach; but when the "*vital power*" is depressed by bad intelligence, its contents are free from acid and gas, as in the case of indigestion from debility. Indigestion is in fact the consequence of diseases, opposite in their nature, and not a *primary* malady. The affection of the stomach, of which indigestion is a consequence, may be either primary or sympathetic, and the treatment must of course be regulated according to the cause or the nature of the disease of which it is an attendant or a sequel. From the stomach the Doctor very properly enters the intestines. "From the *glands* destined to supply the intestines with fluids, either to *promote* their *action*, or facilitate the *ulterior* process of digestion, or for both these purposes, the Doctor, during his researches, has discovered the liver to be an important organ, being readily influenced by, and very soon partaking of, the general weakness of the system, on account of the *peculiarity* of its *structure*, and the *mode* in which circulation is carried on within it. Hence (says he) a train of symptoms denominated bilious, too well known to need a *particular* description, and too universally experienced by those whose

frame is *originally* weak, or whose constitution has been impaired either temporarily or permanently, by any of the numerous circumstances producing a state of debility at *once* the *cause* and the *effect* of most of the maladies to which the human body is liable."!! It appears, then, that "although a state of *perfect* health is compatible with original debility, the debility is capable of disordering the liver." With respect to the peculiarity of structure of the liver, *every* viscus has its *peculiar* structure; and we cannot discover any thing in that of the liver that can dispose it more to disease than any other organ: and as to the *mode* of circulation, it is the same in it as in every other viscus, viz. the blood is conveyed through its substance by arteries, and returned by veins. Of late years, it has become fashionable to term all affections of the stomach, bilious, and even complaints of remote parts of the body as symptomatic of affections of the liver: and this opinion now generally prevailing, the Doctor of course has, very consistently with the object of his work, availed himself of it. The chylopoietic doctrines of Mr. Abernethy have, in consequence of their simplicity, been a fortunate theory for the legitimate and jargonic classes of physicians: and notwithstanding the contempt in which the former pretend to hold modern medicine, or any system which was not known to the ancients, they very generally adopted it. The liver, which from its indolence, and the ignorance of practitioners of the use of its secretion, was scarcely noticed till within the last thirty years, one would suppose, from the prescriptions almost of every class of physicians, is the very seat of vitality, or the organ on which the body depends for a supply of the living power. If a patient complains of nausea, it is produced by bile; and even *acid* eructations are termed *bilious*, although bile, chemically speaking, possesses an opposite quality, that is, an alcali; and although it is conveyed into the upper portion of the intestine termed the duodenum, and not into the stomach; but whether the bile is in excess or otherwise, or the quality too acrid or too mild, the converts to the theory do not condescend to notice. Notwithstanding the importance they have given to the liver in the animal economy, they acknowledge that they are totally unacquainted with its office!! It is assuredly as much dependant on the stomach for its support, on the heart for a supply of blood, on the brain for nervous energy, as any other viscus. Being more indolent than any other organ, disease will take place in the substance without inconveniencing the patient in the slightest degree, and without disturbing the general health or the functions of any organ by sympathy. Great portions have been destroyed by suppuration, without affecting the general health; and it has been entirely removed in a dog without disordering him; why, then, should it be deemed the "prolific source of disease?" The use of the bile is not known. Some have supposed that it separates chyle from the digested food termed chyme, when conveyed into the duodenum; but this idea is erroneous, because chyle has been observed in the fæces of patients whose biliary ducts were so completely obstructed, as not to admit any bile to pass into the duodenum; and it is a fact, that patients so afflicted are generally well nourished during the obstruction. Another supposition is, that the bile keeps up the peristaltic motion of the intestines; but we have met with cases of com-

mon diarrhœa during a long continued obstruction of the biliary duct; others have fancied, that the liver is the grand depurator of the blood, and consequently that the bile is an excrementitious discharge; but if this were its office, we should suppose its secretion would not be conveyed into the part of the intestines in which chyle is formed for the nourishment of the body, but into the receptacle of an excrementitious discharge. Again, on dissection, the substance of the liver is generally as healthy as that of any other viscus, and in general more free from disease than the lungs or the coats of the stomach. The simplicity of the doctrine, or rather the treatment which is founded on it, has made many converts; and if the blue pill or calomel produce a mitigation of suffering, or restore the patient to health, the fact is, in their opinion, proved,—as if the remedy acted on no other part of the body besides the liver!! The mercurial treatment to which the ridiculous theory has given rise, has, on nervous subjects, produced very serious mischief, disturbing the intellectual functions of the brain, so as to bring on a state of mind approximating insanity, and, we suspect, has occasioned mania. After wading through fifty-seven pages of the results of the Doctor's researches, we come to the pith of his book, which speaks volumes, every word having its "illustrative" meaning.—"Chronic debility is characterised by *irregularity* of action of the *living* power, and is a *fruitful* source of that *class* of diseases denominated *nervous*, in which *irregular* action forms the most prominent feature: *hypochondriasis*, *chlorosis*, chorea, (St. Vitus' dance), and epilepsy, are among the most formidable of these. Whatever may have been *originally* the *exciting* cause of either of these diseases, they are *accompanied* or *followed* by *chronic* debility, and at length not unfrequently appear to depend on this state for their continuance." !!! Hence, then, the Doctor's theory embraces a variety of diseases, hypochondriacal, epileptic, chlorotic, &c. &c. a list as numerous as the diseases for which the learned Dr. Solomon recommends his *justly* celebrated Balm of Gilead. St. Vitus' dance, which occurs in subjects of robust health, whose muscular power is undiminished, and the sanguiferous system often overloaded, is dependant on *deficiency* of vital power: and epilepsy, in which the muscular system is brought into such excessive action, as to require two or three strong people to confine the patient to a bed, or to keep him from injuring himself, is the effect of diminution of the *vital* power, the effect of which, he says in another place, is "*relaxation of muscles.*"!!! If the Doctor's theory be unintelligible or mysterious, in consequence of his "ideas being hastily compounded from too rapid a secretion," a *sovereign* prescription will no doubt *satisfactorily* explain *his* meaning, if *not* prove a *sovereign* remedy.

The contemptible trash we have copied, has no doubt excited as much disgust in the minds of our readers as it has in our own; and had the Doctor not exercised the office of a medical critic, and set up as a teacher of medicine, we should here end our examination of his opinions; but being, in his own opinion, and in the opinion of an *impartial and enlightened* editor of a *medical* review, a *great* physiologist, we consider it our duty to notice a few more of the results of his deep researches. "The *stimulus* of *disease* having ceased, a

general state of *lessened* action takes place through the system, and *consequently* also in the *heart*; yet the *irritability* of this organ being increased in common with other parts, *in consequence* of weakness, it is more easily made to deviate from its *regular* action." At one time, *increased* irritability is the consequence of an increase of the *vital* power; and at another time, to explain what he considers a phenomenon—it is the consequence of *debility!!*

The debility, the consequence of the *stimulus* of disease, having ceased, acts as a stimulus in increasing the irritability of the heart!!! The *power* of the *doctor's* LIVING power, for it is the living principle of no other author, not the *vis medicatrix naturæ* of Cullen, at one time he discovered in his deep research, to approximate the particles of muscles by increasing irritability; and at another time he observes, a diminution of it occasions debility also by *increasing irritability*; but such inconsistencies are common in the works of writers who make all facts bend to their peculiar opinions or theories. Irritability is a power inherent in muscles and fibrous tissues, independent of nervous influence; and the strength of a muscle is dependent on it, so that if it be reduced, the part will of course be weakened. In one place he says the action of the heart and arteries depends on a proper degree of the "vital power;" and to account for hemorrhage in a debilitated subject, "when the habit is weak," he says the arteries will act more powerfully, so as even to give occasion to active hemorrhage, a disease of strong action, as from the lungs, intestines, or other parts of the body." When hemorrhage takes place in a weakly subject, it occurs from delicacy of structure, or partial distension of small blood-vessels of the lungs, from obstructions occasioned by deposition of lymph, forming tubercles, or from ulceration, and not from *increased action* of arteries from *debility*.

In accounting for plethora, the cause of many diseases, he says, "it is produced by those causes which favour the formation of blood beyond its ordinary waste, such as *nourishing* food in *large quantity*, the tone or vital power remaining the same;" and in commenting on the cause of *chronic* debility, he says that food of any kind in large quantity, induces debility, the vital power being diminished by the increased action of the stomach to digest it!! He has discovered a species of plethora which more particularly induces *chronic* debility; and, says he, "it may be *supposed* to effect this in consequence of a very large supply of living power being *derived to* the vessels to support this increased action, or *contraction*, thereby depriving other parts of their usual requisite quantity"!!! So the living power, which occasioned too great a production of chyle, quits the stomach to enable the arteries to convey the blood into the veins, and the stomach in consequence becomes weak!!! This, although from a critic, is much too contemptible for comment. "The species of plethora depending upon the peculiar *disposition* of the blood-vessels, (the doctor observes) is a more common cause of *chronic* debility. When this state (says he) is produced and *entirely* kept up by *acrimonious* substances absorbed into the blood-vessels, as *pus*, or by *sympathetic* irritation, the consequence of *local* disease, as scirrhus or cancer, there exists that *combination* of *disease* and *debility* in which *all* treatment of the latter

would be ineffectual during the continuance of the former"! This is indeed most clearly expressed,—a *peculiar disposition of the* blood-vessels occasioned by absorption of *pus*, or the sympathetic irritation of cancer!!! To the honour of Dr. Solomon and Dr. Eady, not a more silly remark is to be found in their "illustrative works." We should suppose that there was not an apothecary's apprentice, who had served two years, so ignorant of the property of *pus*, as not to know it is perfectly mild. So far from being acrimonious, it never fails, when it forms, to allay irritation. Hence the object of a surgeon, in the treatment of ulcers, is to bring on a secretion of pus, when the irritation speedily subsides, and healthy granulations form, so that the ulcer rapidly heals; and the object of topical applications is to keep up a proper secretion of pus. It is in fact the pus, and not the application, that heals the ulcer; and when once produced, the ulcer need not be dressed oftener than twice a week, or three times in the course of a fortnight, provided the patient does not exercise the part. When this said *peculiar disposition of blood-vessels* accompanies cancer, it is, in the observant doctor's opinion, not produced by absorption of the discharge, which is really acrimonious, but by sympathetic irritation!!

The cause of chlorotic patients becoming consumptive, the doctor has discovered "to arise from the morbid disposition to *contraction*, which (says he) in cases of *chlorosis*, probably originated *first* in the uterine organs, and *thence* communicated to the vascular system in *general*, is *very apt* to be transferred in an *excessive* degree to the lungs, obstructing the free circulation through them, and producing irritation, which at length proceeds to inflammation, commonly of the *subacute* kind in the *beginning*, (!!) but terminating ultimately, *if not arrested*, in disorganization of the structure of the *organ itself*"!! At one time he states that the circulation is *accelerated* by increased contraction of the blood-vessels; and in accounting for pulmonary consumption in chlorotic subjects, he says it *retards* the circulation!! The idea of "morbid disposition to contraction in the blood-vessels of the uterus, after being *communicated to the whole vascular system*," being transferred in an excessive degree to the lungs, is indeed a beautiful illustration of the cause of pulmonary consumption!!

Even *Squire* White, the author of a treatise on indigestion, which we hope to be able to notice in our present Number, has not advanced a more contemptible theory of the causes of debility and the modus operandi of the *celebrated* absorbent lozenges. After detailing the results of his researches on the causes of the diseases that assail the human race, and philosophically explaining their phenomena, &c. (which *only* occupies 176 pages of his valuable book), the learned doctor enters on the important subjects of the means of cure, and the explanation of the *modus operandi* of medicines, in which he is so wonderfully great, that we must take some notice of them.

He commences this department of his work, which to our *popular* readers will prove most interesting, with the following "*illustrative* observation:"—"In administering medicines for the cure of *chronic* debility, *we* (the new Society of Physicians of the United Kingdom, *we* suppose), have in *view* to produce *some* effect, *not* on the *mechanical structure* of the *animal* machine, nor on the *chemical* composition

of its solids, but upon the ACTION of the *living* power, to *diminish* its expenditure, to *increase* its quantity, and to *regulate* its distribution"!! This said *living* power he admits is *indefinable*; it is a something which floats in his imagination, but which he cannot describe further than to term it a *vital* power. All the powers of the living body noticed by different physiologists are comprehended in the term of "*vital power*"—no distinction between the inherent power (*vis insita*) of Haller, the nervous power (*vis nervosa*) of Whytt and Morro!!! These powers, which are acknowledged by the most able physiologists of Europe to be distinct, and the *vis medicatrix naturæ* of Cullen, the *vis vitæ* to which Hippocrates and Galen allude, and the *calidum innatum* of the stoical philosophy, are all simplified and satisfactorily explained by the common *English* term, "*vital power!!*" This philosophical explanation reminds us of a shrewd reply of a youth to a question by his master, the Rev. Dr. Evans of Islington, at the time he was giving a lecture on astronomy. The doctor, after alluding to the representation of the world on the shoulders of Atlas, asked the class generally on what Atlas stood? One replied, as the world was made out of chaos, he must stand on chaos; another conjectured a rock; when a lad from Cardiff, at the bottom of the class, exclaimed, "I know, Sir!"—"Indeed," observed the doctor, "pray tell us on what you think he stood." "I know," answered the boy, but it is not yet my turn." When the question passed to him, the whole class was on tiptoe to hear the young Welchman's idea, when, with an air of consequence, he exclaimed, "On his legs to be sure, on what else could he stand?" If Dr. Shearman cannot apply the Welch boy's answer to *his* explanation of the powers inherent in different parts of the body, by merely terming them a *vital power*, we have no doubt the Society of Physicians of the *United* Kingdom, of which we understand he is a *leading* member, will do it for him.

The ACTION of the vital power is, according to the doctor's ideas, on the *mechanical* structure, and the action of the mechanical structure is on the *chemical* composition, and medicine is to be administered to *act* on the *action* of the vital power!! This is indeed proceeding on *philosophical*, if not *scientific* principles, and is a beautiful illustration of the modus operandi of medicine.

Among the *sedative* remedies, the doctor states, "the acids are the most serviceable in chronic debility. The *stimulus* of digestion is, (says he) in *debilitated* people, a *source* of irritation to the blood-vessels, (sanguiferous system), and the circulation in them is *always* very much increased during this process. Acids have a powerful *tendency* to diminish this stimulus, and consequently by this means they contribute to *lessen* the expenditure of the living power in the action of the vessels"!! If the digestive organs be in a state of debility, a man possessing a *reasoning power* would condemn the use of a sedative, and rather increase than diminish the "stimulus of digestion." Although the acids are here recommended to diminish *irritability*, he observes in the following page, that they are useful as an astringent, i. e. by increasing the approximation of the particles of muscular fibres *dependent on irritability!!* Of all the acids, the

doctor states, he has found the sulphuric the most grateful, and "*perhaps*, (says he) *Minsicht's elixir of vitriol* is the best—a formula which has *unaccountably* been rejected by the London College of Physicians." This elixir is a mixture of the sulphuric acid with aromatic tincture, in a dose of which the quantity of the aromatic tincture being only a few drops, could not promote the medicinal virtues of the acid; and if the acid be applied to "*diminish* the stimulus of indigestion," surely it would be unscientific to employ a stimulus. The aromatic tincture not being in proportion to the quantity of sulphuric acid, the College of Physicians acted wisely in expunging the ridiculous formula from their pharmacopœia.

"Among the medicines employed as a *sedative*, with the view of *taking off* the morbid contraction of the blood-vessels, *perhaps*," says the doctor, "no one is more entitled to commendation than sarsaparilla." By some *eminent* practitioners of the present day, sarsaparilla is extolled as a *tonic*, and by them prescribed to *increase* the contractile powers of the blood-vessels, and the irritability of muscles. The doctor's researches have however enabled him to ascertain, that it *acts* "on the action of the vital powers," so as "to take off the contraction of blood-vessels," i. e. to relax them instead of increasing their tone!!! Who is indeed to decide, when such *great philosophers* disagree! The doctor is, in our opinion, right; for sarsaparilla possesses as much medicinal property as decoction of barley, which when taken to the same extent as the decoction of sarsaparilla, is *certainly* a *relaxant*, and so indeed is warm water.

The Doctor thinks that "some readers might suppose, at *first view*, that in case of *chronic debility*, attended with morbid *contraction* of the blood-vessels, relaxant medicines, as antimony, &c. would be given with advantage; but (says he) the *relaxant* effects of this class are chiefly *exerted* on the capillary vessels, and the balance is therefore thrown on the surface; *consequently*, the *large internal vessels* being emptied to a greater degree, a larger expenditure of *living power* is requisite in contracting them upon their contents, and the *chronic* debility is thus augmented."!! This doctrine completely upsets the opinion of the celebrated Cullen, of the increased secretion of perspirable matter, following a dose of antimony, being the consequence of its nauseating effect on the stomach. The relaxant powers of the antimony *increases* the action of the vessels of the skin, and diminishes that of the *internal* large vessels. The circulation of blood in the skin does not, then, depend on the propelling power of the heart, or of the large arteries; for as it is reduced, the action of the vessels of the skin is increased! Now, the case is, that in *chronic* debility, or any other species of real or direct debility that may exist in the Doctor's brain, the blood-vessels are in a state of contraction; not from increase of the vital power, or contractile power of the vessels, but from diminution of their contents. It is, therefore, ridiculous in the extreme to talk of relaxing the coats of *elastic* vessels, whose diameter is diminished in consequence of the quantity of their contents being reduced.

In *chronic* debility, the Doctor has discovered that an *increase* of *mobility* and *irritability* exists; and, therefore, (says he) various

medicines are employed with a view to *diminish* them. *Increased mobility*, the consequence of *chronic* debility!! This chronic debility, which the Doctor has discovered, is a most curious affection; for it occurs in opposite states of the system, and is characterised by symptoms of diminished and of increased states of *his vital power*.

Among the important results of the Doctor's researches, that of the *effect* of *astringent* substances is the most curious; for it appears, that these articles act on the *dead* body in the same manner as *his living* power acts on the *living* body, viz. by approximating the particles of fibres, and suspending the chemical properties of the component parts. The astringent principle is, in fact, the *living* principle of the *dead* body; that is, it keeps up that peculiar *vital* principle which resists decomposition.—"The *astringent* substances," the Doctor has found to diminish the length and diameter of the fibres, and deprive them of the *water* of combination; "and this operation (says he) is termed *tanning*." Admirable explanation of the *chemical* action of astringent substances on dead fibres!! Is the Doctor, then, so ignorant of chemistry as not to know, that the *tanning* effect is produced by a peculiar principle termed *tannin*, and not by the *astringent* principle; and does this great critic not know, that the most powerful astringent substances do not contain the tanning principle!!!

The manner in which tonic or astringent medicines act in strengthening the system, is a discovery which must prove highly interesting or amusing to the physiologists and pathologists of the age, some of whom may, perhaps, hail it as the commencement of a new medical æra.—"By contracting the capillaries, *they* (the astringents) *throw* more blood on the internal large vessels, and *thus* the circulation (says he) is performed with a less expenditure of the living power, by the contraction of the *secretory* organs; they lessen inordinate secretions, and hence diminish the waste of the living power."!! Well, well—whether the capillary vessels are relaxed or constringed by the vital power, the heart and internal large arteries have less to do!! A most precious piece of information indeed. Some learned professors have said, that the heart and internal large vessels are called more into action where the vessels of the skin are constringed, in order to propel the blood through them. Others have supposed, that the health of the internal organs, and indeed of the whole body, depends on a proper circulation in the skin and extremities; and some, who have published their opinions on the causes of internal organic disease, have attributed its commencement to a deposit in the cellular substance, from over-distension of the internal blood-vessels, in consequence of its being diminished in the capillaries; the truth of which, we suspect, no professional man, who has paid attention to the subject, will deny. Now, a practitioner of common sense, or capable of observation or reflection, we presume, would suppose that a tonic or astringent medicine, by increasing the propelling power of the heart, would occasion a greater distribution of blood through the capillaries, or the vessels of the skin. Speaking of the class of astringent medicines, he observes, "Oak bark is *perhaps* one of the *most efficacious vegetable astringents*; but (says he) among these, none stand more pre-eminent for *acknowledged* efficacy than the Peruvian bark, uniting in itself a strong

astringent property, with a considerable specific power of DIMINISHING *irritability*."!! The Peruvian bark certainly diminishes morbid sensibility of nerves, attendant on diminished irritability of muscles. Probably by increasing muscular irritability, it restores the equilibrium between the *vis inserta* and the *vis nervosa*.

That medicine which diminishes *irritability*, or muscular power, cannot be termed astringent or tonic. The Doctor, by the frequent misapplication of the word irritability, is probably not aware, that by it is meant a principle peculiar to muscular and perhaps to membranous fibres, and is independant of nervous influence; for when the communication with the brain is cut off, by dividing the nerves leading to the muscle, and even when the branches are dissected out as far as they can be traced, the muscle retains this principle. The vis nervosa brings the muscle under the influence of the will, whilst the vis inserta, or irritability, is independant of the nerves.

Chronic debility, with the doctor, is the cause and the effect of disease; and notwithstanding his assertion, that this said *chronic* debility is not an *actual* disease, in his Introduction he expresses regret that *he* has not been able to find it in the classification of *diseases*, by antient and modern nosologists. The obstinacy of this said chronic debility is also a curious discovery. An inquisitive old woman, after reading his luminously "illustrative remarks," might be induced to perplex the doctor with the simple question—Does not all disease terminate fatally by *debilitating* "the vital power," and does not the *chronic* debility increase with the disease? Is it then, most learned logician, extraordinary that the debility should prove more *obstinate* and *difficult to* cure than the *actual* disease? According to the doctor's *ideas* (simple or *compound*) of chronic debility, it is not the disease, but the debility it induces, that destroys life; and this debility, in fact, terminates the disease by destroying the vital power!! That this "illustrative observation is clearly deduced from the present *state* of knowledge of the properties and functions of animal life, our readers must admit. The debility terminates first, and then the disease!!! Bravissimo, most learned philosopher! thou hast indeed, by this discovery, outsolomoned the justly-celebrated Dr. Solomon.

The most eminent practitioners have hitherto considered debility as the *effect* of disease; and really, in the course of our practice, we have never met with a case in which the primary affection was not clear, or in which we were at a loss to trace it to its source; and we may venture to say as much of the generality of practitioners, and indeed of patients possessed of an "ordinary understanding."

We find, on looking over the remaining thirty pages of the Doctor's "illustrative observations," that we have no less than forty marginal notes for comment; but really the observations and flights of fancy of the learned Doctor are so contemptible, that we have not patience to notice them; and we suspect we have already exhausted the patience of our readers, by the long account we have given of the results of his deep researches. We have been induced to enter into the *merits* of the work for four reasons: 1*stly*, Because the Doctor, about ten years ago, set up as a *critic*; 2*dly*, Because he has been termed, by some of his cotemporary critics, a great physiologist; 3*dly*,

Because he is a leading member of a new medical society for promoting the *science* of medicine, and diffusing the rays of the "lux medica;" and, *4thly*, Because the editors of some medical reviews have insulted their readers by recommending them to *purchase* the work, although a collection of the most contemptible trash that has issued from the press within the last five hundred years.

We must however do the learned doctor the justice to say, that his work is certainly more consistent than those of many advertisers for fees and advertisers of nostrums; for in those we now and then meet with a little plagiarism from respectable authors, which occasions a refreshing interruption; but in the pages of the doctor's book we meet with no such interruption, the whole being an uniform tissue of ridiculous nonsense, founded on some principle of vitality, which, like the class of jargonic physicians, he no doubt fancies he really demonstrates, by terming it the *living power*, the idea of which may be found in the writings of the most antient authors, and which has been very properly termed by a late writer, "*verba verborum medica*," i. e. jargonic medicine.

We have devoted so much of the present number to the doctor's "illustrative observations," that we must postpone the examination of Dr. Graham's Treatise till our next number.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

In consequence of some remarks we have made on the exhibition of the rectified spirit of turpentine, in cases of puerperal fever, a Dublin subscriber has been so kind as to remind us of a violent controversy which, about the year 1812, was carried on in Dublin, by the physicians of the Lying-in Hospital of that city, and a Dr. Brenar, respecting an *epidemic* puerperal fever, which, at that time, committed dreadful havock among the hospital patients. In consequence of its great fatality, the physicians of the city met at the Institution, in order to consult together, as to the best means of checking its progress. Dr. Brenar, who attended with many others, secretly gave a draught to a patient apparently in the last stage of the disease; who, contrary to the expectation of the physicians of the hospital, recovered. The circumstance having excited much surprise in the minds of the physicians, Dr. Brenar was requested to communicate to them the mode of practice he had found so very successful. The doctor afterwards published a Treatise on the subject, under the title of "Thoughts on Puerperal Fever;" by which it appears the doctor was the first physician who prescribed the spirit of turpentine in cases of puerperal fever. On referring to the Medical and Physical Journal, we find, in Nos. 207, 208, and 226, some cases of puerperal fever, in which the spirit of turpentine was successfully administered, under the direction of Mr. Edgell, an eminent surgeon of Bristol. It appears also, by the last volume of the Dublin Medical Reports, the physicians of that city have had recourse to this practice, with the same happy results. We believe, in all the cases in which it has proved successful, it was not given till the violence of the first symptoms had abated, or rather, till the

inflammatory action had existed a few days, and was on the decline. Our intelligent correspondent observes, "notwithstanding the recommendation of Dr. Brenar, corroborated by Dr. Payne, and the results of my own practice, I shall continue to advise large bleedings and active purgatives, during the *first stage* of the disease;" a practice we should certainly adopt, were our assistance required on the first appearance of the disease; more with a view to prepare the system for the exhibition of the rectified spirit of turpentine, than to cure the disease.

EPILEPSY.

Dr. Burdach, an eminent physician of Wiebal, near Soran, having published a few cases of epilepsy, in which the powdered root of the mugwort (*artemisia vulgaris*), under his superintendence, proved successful, Professor Hufeland determined to give it a fair trial, in a public hospital of Berlin. Out of ten confirmed cases, the Professor says, it cured three, relieved three, and on the other four it produced no beneficial effect whatever.

Dr. Burdach recommends the root to be gathered about the middle of October, to be dried in the shade without washing, and not to be powdered till within a few days before it is wanted. He directs the powder to be administered in the dose of two, three, or four scruples, in a little warm beer, within half an hour of the accession of the fit; and, as its beneficial operation depends on its sudorific effects, he directs the patient to be placed in a bed, well covered, and, in this state, to drink freely of warm beer. When the perspiration, which is generally copious, has subsided, he says the patient may leave the bed.

The effects of copious perspiration, in producing a state of system unfavourable for epilepsy, and other spasmodic affections, is well known; and we suspect the cures Dr. Burdach and Professor Hufeland suppose were effected by the remedy, will prove to be only suspensions of the disease. The patients were chiefly females. Most of the cases were probably more of the nature of hysteria than epilepsy; and, if the latter, they were probably brought into action by uterine irritation; in which case, a sudorific, by diminishing irritability, would prove beneficial.

The common mugwort (*artemisia vulgaris*) is very abundant in this country, growing naturally on banks, and, in many parts, by the side of foot-paths. It flowers in June, when it is generally gathered for medicinal use. It has an aromatic smell, and bitterish taste, and has been highly extolled, by Hippocrates and Dioscorides, as a promoter of the uterine secretion. Galen employed it, in form of fomentation, in cases of hysterical spasms, and prescribed an infusion of it to be taken as common drink. The tops and flowers are the strongest.

An infusion of the flowers and tops have lately been much recommended by a French physician, whose name we have forgotten, as a remedy for asthma; and if it has proved beneficial in this disease, it was probably as an aromatic bitter, in promoting digestion, and

expelling gas. We have known the dried flowers and leaves, used by asthmatics in this country, with a small addition of the datura stramonium and the dried strobules of the hop, for smoking, with great advantage; the smoke inhaled during the operation, evidently allaying irritation, and promoting expectoration. The moxa, so famous in the eastern countries, and in some parts of the Continent, for curing gout, and deep-seated irritation, or inflammatory action, by burning it on the skin over the affected part, is obtained from this species of artemisia.

DEAFNESS.

A few days since, the wife of a watch finisher, residing in Clerkenwell, who had not heard from her infancy the slightest sound with her right ear, immediately after losing eight ounces of blood, was much alarmed by a noise like that of a musket; which, she said, appeared to be "in her head!" From that instant, she heard as well with the affected ear, as with the healthy one. The cause of the deafness, was probably obstruction in the eustachian tube; and which was removed by the admission of air, after unloading the vessels of the parts. An abstraction of blood seems to have great effect on the organs of hearing; for fainting, from the loss of blood, is generally preceded by a sensation of wringing in them. Our readers, affected with deafness, must not suppose, from the effects of bleeding in the above case, that it may prove beneficial in every case, because instances of deafness, suddenly following bleeding, are on record.

The observant and scientific aurist, Mr. Wright, in his valuable "Practical Treatise on Nervous Deafness," has noticed cases which evidently arose from compression of the auditory nerve, by over-distended blood vessels; a symptom of which is a drumming sensation, corresponding with the pulsation of the temporal artery, and in which bleeding, with an active aperient and the cold shower-bath, proved highly beneficial.

HALFPENCE SWALLOWED.

Sirs,—The account of a man, who had swallowed a penny-piece, which appeared in your last Number, brings to my recollection the extraordinary powers of a man of the name of Hanley or Henley, a turnpike contractor, who swallowed, some time since, twelve half-penny pieces; and adopted no means either to bring them up, or hasten them through the intestinal canal, and they passed off without annoying him. A few months since, the same man voluntarily swallowed six half-penny pieces, and experienced no particular inconvenience therefrom.

The case of the man under Sir Astley Cooper, who swallowed the penny-piece *accidentally*, is calculated to call forth our tenderest sympathy,—but the man above alluded to, excites no commiseration. Although the bold experimentalist has amassed sufficient property to make him independent, the offer of a paltry bribe,

induced this old man to hazard his life. Thus the avaricious may be usefully employed in promoting the medical and other sciences.

I am Sirs, your constant Reader,

City Road, Oct. 15, 1824. J. F.

ASTHMA; AND WINTER, OR NERVOUS COUGH.

We have found the following composition so very beneficial, in cases of asthma and chronic cough, arising from morbid irritation of the membrane of the windpipe and bronchial ramifications, to which many invalids of nervous temperament are subject, during the winter season, we have thought proper to publish it, as a safe and, in general, a very efficacious remedy for those affections.

Take of Prussic Acid, five drops;
Compound Spirit of Sulphuric Ether, three drachms;
Tincture of Squills, three drachms;
Gum Arabic Powder, two drachms;
Camphorated Almond Emulsion, six ounces.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.—No article employed in medicine, in this country, differs so much in strength as the prussic acid; that sold by some druggists being so weak, that one drachm will not produce so much effect as one drop procured at another place. The prussic acid we employed, was made at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly; half a drop of which is a good dose. The camphorated almond emulsion, is made by substituting camphorated julep for water, in the form for the almond emulsion.

The above mixture is only proper for chronic cough and asthmatic affections, unaccompanied by inflammatory action, or symptoms of plethora. In cases of nervous or chronic cough, and of asthma, attended with a plethoric state of the system, an abstraction of blood should precede its use.

INTROSUSCEPTION.

The following case of this formidable disease lately occurred in Brighton. A. B., a robust man, about 36 years of age, after taking a few oysters for supper, was seized with acute pain in the bowels, for which he took, the following morning, about half an ounce of tincture of rhubarb. The remedy not operating on the intestines, he took, in the afternoon, an ounce of castor oil; which not producing any aperient effect, he repeated the following morning. Violent vomitting coming on in the evening, with considerable aggravation of the pain in the bowels, attended with head-ache and slight fever, we were requested to see him. On examining the abdomen, we found it much distended, and so very tender, that very slight pressure, especially over the valve of the colon, produced acute pain. The pulse being full, and the vessels of the head evidently much distended, we ordered 16 ounces of blood to be taken from a vein of the arm, three pills, composed of the cathartic extract,

calomel, and extract of henbane, to be taken; a lavement of decoction of aloes, extract of henbane, and Epsom salt, to be exhibited, and the bowels to be well fomented. The next morning we found him much more easy. The lavement had escaped without fæces. The pulse being full, and the bowels tense and painful on pressure, we ordered twelve ounces of blood to be abstracted, and two ounces of quicksilver to be given immediately; and the lavement to be repeated. In the afternoon we found him in great pain, with great confusion of the head, which he attributed to frequent vomiting and absence of sleep. The pulse had considerably fallen and intermitted, and his countenance was much dejected.

The case becoming alarming, we ordered him to be put into a warm sea-water bath; and, for the purpose of regulating the heat, we accompanied him to it. After being in the bath, at the temperature of 94 (Fahr.), fifteen minutes, he said the pain in the bowels had considerably decreased. The temperature was then increased to 98, which, he said, seemed to do him more service. We then threw up about two quarts of the water of the bath, which seemed to increase the pain, and also to excite vomitting. He then took his station again in the bath, with the water raised to 102 degrees. He was now again nearly free from pain. After remaining fifteen minutes longer in the bath, without being sensible of any quantity of the injected water having escaped, we threw up two quarts more of the water of the bath, at the temperature of 102. This was followed by vomitting; and, in about five minutes after taking his situation in the bath, considerable quantity of air, and bloody slime and fæces escaped downward, which was soon followed by vomiting of salt water and bloody slime, with liquid fæces, similar to that which escaped from the rectum. The man's spirits now rose, and his countenance became more animated; and, on getting out of the bath, he observed, "I am, thank God, in heaven." He was then conveyed to his bed, and an anodyne draught administered. On visiting him three hours after he had taken the draught, he complained of great pain in the bowels; which was increased by slight pressure; and the pulse being quick, we ordered a gentle aperient draught, with the extract of henbane, and a large blister to be applied over the abdomen. The next day, we found him free from pain; the blister had risen, and the aperient draught had operated. After this time, he rapidly gained strength; and in two days he was able to follow his occupation. The fortunate termination of this case, clearly shews the superior advantage of administering copious lavements, when the whole body is under the influence of the warm bath; and the continuance of the body in warm water for upwards of an hour. The vomiting of salt water, &c. proves that a liquid may be forced beyond the valve of the colon, by even a simple instrument; for that we employed, was a large bullock's bladder, with the common pipe.

COW POX.

Mr. Battcock, a respectable surgeon-apothecary of Brighton, in a letter to the Editor of the Brighton Herald, states, that "up to

the end of last year, he has vaccinated fourteen thousand eight hundred and seventy persons; out of which number, so far as he has been able to ascertain, only eleven have since been infected by small-pox; and in these, the disease proved very mild. In allusion to a popular notion that the blood may be contaminated, and diseases communicated by matter of cow-pox taken from an unhealthy subject, he observes, "It *cannot* be amalgamated or mixed with what are termed *humours* of the body; and, consequently, has no power of transmitting maladies from one to another." The fact is, very few diseases are communicable by inoculation; and even if we admit the humoral pathology of the antients to have some foundation, the system of a healthy patient is not likely to be contaminated by any unhealthy humour, for the matter produced by the suppurative process, occasioned by the cow-pox poison, is of its own nature; and even when taken from a subject affected with syphilis, the disease has not been communicated by small-pox or cow-pox inoculation. The matter is the consequence of decomposition of the part by the peculiar inflammatory action excited by the poison, from which new combinations, of the nature of the exciting poison, form; and if the part in which it takes place was contaminated by any morbid humour or specific poison, it would, we conceive, be destroyed or decomposed, so as to be inert. The medical men, as Mr. Battcock observes, are, however, careful in selecting children free from apparent disease, to guard against the possibility of communicating any other disease. We wish they were equally careful in employing clean lancets.

As to the failures of cow-pox, which have been published by many highly respectable members of the profession, who, like ourselves, have thought, and wish to think, very favourably of its antivariolous power, we are persuaded, from repeated observations, that they have arisen solely from the system having not been properly affected by cow-pox, either from the matter not having been good in consequence of age and not having been taken at a proper time, or in consequence of its not being conveyed to the mass of blood by the absorbent vessels. The inoculation may have been very properly performed, and the part may have proceeded to suppuration, and yet no absorption may take place; and unless slight fever occurs when the inflammation has arrived to its acme, the probability is, an effect is not produced on the *system* to render it unsusceptible of the action of small-pox infection. In cases of syphilitic poison, it is well known that healthy subjects have resisted absorption, even when the poison has produced ulceration, and such ulceration has been cured by a topical application only. Again, even when the matter is absorbed, the system may be so perfectly healthy as not to be disturbed by the poison either of cow-pox, small-pox, or syphilis; and it appears by the reports of some respectable surgeons, that even when the system is contaminated by syphilis, the Peruvian bark has cured the patient without the aid of its specific—mercury; and, we presume, most practitioners will attribute such cures more to improvement of the general health, enabling the body to expell, or in some manner to neutralise

the poisons, than to any antisyphilitic property of the Peruvian bark.

In all the cases of small-pox subsequent to cow-pox we have met with, the patients were particularly healthy at the time they were vaccinated, and the parents had no recollection of there being any symptom of fever at the time the arms were inflamed. Some of the patients having been vaccinated by the late Dr. Jenner, the operation was, no doubt, properly performed. With respect to the diseases of the skin which have appeared some weeks after vaccination, in the proportion of one in a thousand, they were, no doubt, dependant on an unhealthy condition of the constitution, and were brought into action by the fever excited by cow-pox matter: and as an excitant of constitutional disease, the small-pox matter is unquestionably more powerful than cow-pox matter,—for eruptions of the skin and scrofulous affections have more generally followed the former than the latter disease.

It is not uncommon for very healthy children to resist the local action of the small-pox matter, and not to have any eruption after absorption has evidently taken place, when the local inflammation has advanced to suppuration, the system being too healthy to allow of being disturbed by the poison, or of the formation of a morbid matter. From this circumstance, we conceive, it frequently happens, that on inoculating a hundred children, five or six will not take it, and even resist its influence when continuing with those on whom it had a proper effect. They will, however, be susceptible of the action of the contagion when their systems are unhealthy or disposed to inflammatory action; and thus we may account for persons having had, as it was supposed, small-pox a second time. The chicken-pox pustules, in some inflammatory habits, advance to suppuration, so as to resemble those of small-pox, and even, like it, to leave deep impressions; and this fact may account for the cases of persons having the small-pox a second time, whose skin bore strong marks of the first crop.

SCROFULA.

Dr. Lassaré, of Copenhagen, informs us that he has administered a solution of *pure* soda in many cases of scrofulous affections of glands, joints, and organic disease of the stomach and liver, with much more advantage than the same preparation of potass. The solution he employed, was made by simmering in a glass retort half a pound of the subcarbonate of soda in two quarts of fresh lime water for four hours; after which the liquor is to be filtred through bibulous paper. Of this solution he directs, in scrofulous cases, thirty drops to be given to a child from 4 to 8 years of age three times a day, in a table-spoonful or two of infusion of malt—a tea-spoonful or two to a patient from 10 to 15 years of age, three times a day, in a large wine-glass of infusion of malt; and from two to three tea-spoonsful, in the same vehicle, to adults, two or three times a day. In cases of organic disease of the stomach or liver, he recommends it to be given with an aromatic bitter, as the tincture of ginger and chamomile, in

barley-water. For gravel, and gouty affections of the stomach, and heartburn, he gives the following prescription,—

Take of Solution of Pure Soda, 4 drachms;
Tincture of Columbo, 1 ounce;
Compound Spirit of Juniper, 2 ounces;
Decoction of Marshmallow-Root, 12 ounces.—Mix.

From three to four table-spoonsful to be taken two or three times a day. He states that the antiscrofulous property of the soda is diminished by the carbonic acid, and that the carbonate of soda has no beneficial effect either in cases of gravel, stone, or scrofula.

From the good effects of the sub-carbonate of soda we have witnessed in cases of scrofula and organic diseases, we should certainly prefer, in such cases, the solution of pure soda to that of the pure potass, recommended by Mr. Brandish and Mr. Farr.

LUPULIN.

Some French physicians, ignorant of the part of the flowers of the hop to which this name has been lately given by an American writer, direct it to be made by rubbing the dried strobules of the hop so as to reduce them to a coarse powder. An infusion of this coarse powder in spirit of wine, we find is now very generally sold in London for *Tincture of Lupulin.*

The article termed lupulin is a fine mealy flour which adheres to the seeds and strobules of the hop, and is in great measure separated by the process of drying, so that the bottom of the kiln and floor of the room in which they are placed previously to their being bagged, are covered with it. It contains considerably more of the aromatic principle than the strobules, and is also so resinous that the tincture of it becomes very turbid on an addition of water. It is likewise much more efficacious in allaying irritation than the tincture or infusion of the strobules of the hop; indeed, on account of the peculiar aromatic resin it contains, it is a different medicine to the strobules; and we have met with nervous subjects who have derived most essential benefit from the tincture of genuine lupulin in cases of spasms of the stomach, indigestion, and gouty irritation of the membranes of joints, who did not receive the smallest benefit from the tincture or infusion of the strobules. The lupulin of the Worcestershire hop, termed the Mathern Whites, we have found to be more aromatic and resinous than that of any other hop. In the lupulin of some of the Kent hops the quantity of the resin principle is small, and the bitter principle is too intense for complaints of the stomach, powerful bitters in a short time acting injuriously on the stomach by diminishing nervous energy. A gouty gentleman, very subject to indigestion, (from morbid irritation of the digestive organs) to heartburn, and gravel, informs us that he has derived more benefit from the following drops, (in the dose of three tea-spoonsful twice a day, in a wine-glass of water) than from any other medicine:—

Take of Tincture of Lupulin, 1 ounce;
Solution of Carbonate of Potass, 3 drachms;
Tincture of the Diosma Crenata, an ounce and a half.—Mix.

ELECTRICITY, AND AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH.

Sirs—Having had the honour of becoming a subscriber to your valuable work, I take the liberty of begging of you to insert, in your next Number, the following case, cured by electricity and the air-pump vapour-bath.

Patrick Duffay, a strong and healthy man, in the employment of Mr. Gillington, of Abbey-street, having made rather free use of ardent spirits, fell asleep across a chair, in such a manner that great and continued pressure was caused on the ulnar nerve. On awaking, he found himself deprived of the power of his left arm; and this affection having continued for two days, without any alteration, he applied to a medical gentleman (Dr. H., of Dominick-street), who referred him to me. On examination, I found the hand and fore-arm swelled; the temperature of the affected limb was inferior to the other; the pulse was hard and wiry; the hand hung powerless; the fingers could neither be closed nor extended; and the power of the arm was so far impaired, that he could only move it backward and forward; the rotatory motion was entirely lost, and it was with great effort and pain that he could raise his elbow, and this seemed the effect of the deltoide muscle alone.

On the 30th of May last he came to me, with a note from the doctor, to be subjected to the influence of the air-pump vapour-bath, and of electricity. My apparatus undergoing some slight repair on that day, I was obliged to postpone the application until the first of June (when no change for the better had taken place). I then drew sparks all along the scapula, shoulder-joint, and down the course of the nerves to the top of the fingers; passing now and then condensed sparks (or slight shocks) through the affected limb. The next day he was better, being able to elevate the arm a little. On the 3d, he could raise the fore-arm level to the elbow, but had not yet the power of the fingers. On the 4th, the same application was repeated, with the same success; but the swelling was not apparently diminished. On the 5th, I applied the air-pump vapour-bath. The sensation which he experienced during the fomentation, was agreeable. He felt a glow of heat first on the fingers, gradually reaching the wrist, and thence to the elbow. The application lasted an hour. His arm had then acquired a natural colour; the tension was much lessened, and the swelling abated; but a little weakness still remained. On the 6th, he came with a joyful countenance, saying, he was so well that he did not think any further application was necessary. I then took him to the doctor, who expressed himself highly satisfied with the result of the case, and declared the man to be perfectly recovered. I am, Sirs,

Your most obedient servant,

34, Bacheller's Walk, Dublin. P. SIMON.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health. *Medical Electrician.*

BRIGHTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

No watering-place in this kingdom is so well furnished with medical practitioners, of every denomination, as Brighton; we have here

the different classes, from the proud college-fellow to the impudent itinerant quack; but, among them all, there is no one so attractive to invalids as Mr. Mahomed, by whose Indian practice of shampooing, many cripples from gout, rheumatism, and accidents, have been restored to health, so as to be able to leave their crutches, splints, and bandages behind them; and that too, after having been blue-pilled under Abernethy, and ammoniated and dry-rubbed under Sir Astley Cooper, without any beneficial results. The well-merited reputation of this Indian practitioner having spread throughout the Continent, princes and princesses, from the remotest parts, visit Brighton, for the purpose of placing themselves under his care. The late king of France had recourse to his advice, and, we are informed, derived considerable benefit from shampooing. Shampooing is, no doubt, a more efficacious remedy for palsy, stiffness of joints, rheumatism, and the debilitating effects of gout, &c. than the pommelling system of Dr. Balfour, or rather of Admiral Henry (to whom the doctor is indebted for his knowledge of it); *in consequence* of the surface of the body being exposed to the action of warm aromatic vapour. Among the improvements for invalids, a large cold sea-water bath, by Mr. Lamprell, is particularly worthy of notice. It contains one hundred thousand gallons, and is constantly receiving from the sea a fresh supply of water, to the extent of six hundred gallons every hour. The advantages of this bath are certainly very important. The invalid is not exposed to a current of air, or to the action of waves; and, being covered, he may bathe in it during bad weather, or when the sea is too turbulent to admit of it. This bath is allowed to be the largest, and most convenient in Europe, and is really an ornament to Brighton. We have an Infirmary, which, although it seldom contains more than four patients, and sometimes only two, maintains a matron, servants, and a resident surgeon-apothecary; the latter of whom exhibits, in the dispensary, a surgeon's diploma; an exhibition which we have not seen in any charitable institution of this kingdom; and we cannot help thinking, a more proper situation would be the *front* of the hospital. The rules and expenditure of this charity we shall particularly notice in our next number. We have, in a state of great forwardness, a pump-room; at which, imitations of the most celebrated mineral waters of Germany and of England are to be retailed, at a low price. It is to be superintended by a German physician, who is well acquainted with analytical chemistry; and we have no doubt the different waters, although artificial, will prove more efficacious than the native ones, taken on the spots, in consequence of the powerful co-operation of the sea air on the general health.

The "extraordinary case" of an out-patient of the hospital, to which we alluded on the cover of our last Number, is not yet complete!

Dr. Graham, the proprietor of an antispasmodic nostrum for epilepsy, in a late publication, has ventured to give a decided opinion of the insalubrity of the atmosphere of Brighton to dyspeptic patients. It is, in his opinion, "*peculiar, cold, ungenial, unfriendly*, and

insalubrious to invalids suffering from severe stomach complaints"!! The air is always in motion, sometimes travelling at the rate of upwards of one hundred miles an hour, so that the air of Brighton in the course of an hour may be the air of Cheltenham, which the *learned* doctor says is "mild, clear, and *highly restorative*"!! If the air of a place possesses *peculiar* properties, or is peculiarly insalubrious, it must be from some *local* cause, either marsh effluvia, pernicious vapours from manufactories, or stagnant water, exposure to north or east winds, &c. Now what is there in Brighton that can possibly contaminate the atmosphere? The soil being dry and chalky, is unquestionably "*peculiarly*" healthy, no vapour arising from it that can possibly be insalubrious.

The aspect is "peculiarly" favourable; and when the air flows from the south or west, or south-west, it is "peculiarly" free from carbonic acid gas, which cannot be said of the air of Cheltenham, or any other place of the same distance from the sea-coast. When the wind is from the east or north, Brighton, by the surrounding hills, is protected from the *rapidity* of its currency, from which its injurious effects on gouty and rheumatic subjects chiefly arise; and even when a north or east wind prevails, the sea-breezes, by mixing with it, (passing throughout the whole of Brighton), corrects its quality,—and this cannot be said of the atmosphere of Cheltenham. As to the air of Brighton being *cold*, it has been ascertained most satisfactorily, that during the coldest days of winter, the temperature of the Brighton air is four degrees higher than that of Cheltenham: and another most important fact is, that on the days the air of Cheltenham has been humid, (the atmosphere clouded, with drizzling rain), a state "peculiarly *ungenial*" to *every* class of invalids, that of Brighton has been *peculiarly* clear: and these facts are so well known to many invalids who are in the habit of visiting Cheltenham occasionally, and even to inhabitants of the place, subject to severe stomach complaints, as well as to families who spend their summers in Devonshire, that they winter at Brighton.

With respect to Brighton being an improper place for "invalids suffering from severe stomach *or* bowel complaints," we really do not know a more healthy resort for them. The spring-water of the place is "peculiarly" pure, and the market is well supplied with good vegetables and excellent meat; so that, with respect to articles of diet, it has every advantage. With respect to local remedies, surely the warm sea-water bath is, in cases of "severe stomach and bowel complaints," one of the most important auxiliary remedies that can be employed; and when organic disease or morbid structure exists in the bowels, it is a most invaluable, we may say indispensable one, to the blue pill and a tonic medicine; and that the sea-air is *extremely* beneficial in supporting the system against the inroads of the "severe disease of the stomach and bowels," the man must be prejudiced indeed against the place, or an idiot, who will not admit it. But independent of the *purity* of the air, it is also a corrective of the scrofulous diathesis, which, in most cases of severe diseases of the stomach and bowels, we have found a necessary auxiliary. We have known the employment of it, with the judicious use of mercury, and a stomachic, or other medicines the state of the intestinal canal indicated, restore persons to health, whose cases had been pronounced hopeless. During our residence at Brighton, we have met with many old patients, some of whom had, for twenty years,

been subject to indigestion, and others from gout and rheumatism, who have determined to spend the remainder of their days there, in consequence of having found the place agree with them much better than Bath or Cheltenham. One of them, a colonel, who has been in the West Indies many years, and who has been for twenty years a great invalid, from indigestion and rheumatism, emphatically observed to us, a few days ago, "Brighton is the only place in this country that agrees with me; here I am certain of being able to get a walk for an hour or two every day throughout the year, without even wetting the bottom of my shoes, or exposing myself to rain; for during all the rain we have had for the last two years, there has not been one day without an interval of a few hours of fine weather, during which the pavement becomes dry." He also asserted that he had been nearly free from rheumatism, and from the consequences of indigestion, and weighed two stone heavier than when he first came to the place.

Because Cheltenham lies in a vale, the learned Dr. Graham thinks the air must necessarily be mild and healthy. The currency of air is no doubt checked by the surrounding hills; but on that account the air of the place is certainly not more pure, but, on the contrary, more impure. If the air of London were to be rendered stagnant by surrounding hills, it would be, from the number of its inhabitants, the most unhealthy place in the kingdom. A town surrounded, like Cheltenham, by hills, is always damp, and the inhabitants are uniformly subject to rheumatism and disease of the chest; and we venture to assert, that in no place in Europe are these diseases more prevalent than in Cheltenham. Putting the quackery of Cheltenham out of the question, we are certain there is not an unprejudiced medical man in this kingdom, who is acquainted with Brighton, Cheltenham and Bath, who would not give the preference to Brighton, in case they were "Invalids suffering from severe stomach or bowel disorders." We suspect a slight disappointment Doctor Graham experienced in Brighton, when he commenced *curing* epilepsy by his antispasmodic nostrum, has prejudiced him against the air of the place. The invalids who visited it trusted more to the sea air, and bathing, than to medicine; and they were so excessively stupid as not to be able to discover the doctor's superior knowledge of diseases. Soon after he took up his residence in Brighton, the *unpleasant* correspondence took place, which we have noticed in our last number, the nauseating or disgusting nature of which was certainly sufficient to disorder his bowels, and it was no doubt policy to attribute it to the air of Brighton. The opinion of the quality of any air from such a quarter—a *physician*, who has the assurance to advertise a nostrum for the *cure* of epilepsy, is altogether unworthy of notice.

During our visit to Brighton, we met with two cases of visceral disease, in which three doses of blue pill (4 grains each) during the use of the warm sea-water bath, produced salivation.

FRENCH POLISH FOR FURNITURE.

By the particular request of a correspondent in Liverpool, we obtained a copy of the receipt for the French polish for furniture, and gave it in our last number; but the directions for its use not accompanying the receipt, we were not able to give them. As its effect depends on great nicety of application, we shall give the mode of using it in his own words:—"Make a good sized roller of list (tightly bound), and moisten the end of it with the polish, and over it secure a piece of fine linen rag, and be careful to put a little olive or linseed oil on the top of the polish, at the end of the rolled list, with the finger, otherwise the composition will not work; and only polish the space of about six inches square at a time. Much labour is required to give a fine polish. If the furniture has been waxed or oiled, it should be rubbed off by means of alcohol and tow."

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OF COSTIVENESS.

There is no complaint more general, especially among females, nor more productive of serious mischief in the constitution, than costiveness. Although it is more easily corrected than any other state of the system which favours morbid action, it is generally so much neglected as to be a common cause of the diseases that destroy nearly one half of the inhabitants of this country, viz. pulmonary consumption and apoplexy. Retention of feces is not, however, always to be treated as a disease; because, with females especially, it is often constitutional. In all cases of disease it is of great importance to ascertain whether the patient had been constitutionally subject to confined bowels, for on such patients an active purgative medicine will have a much more debilitating effect than on one whose bowels were relieved every day; indeed on some delicate subjects, whose habits were constitutionally costive, their bowels not having been relieved for many years oftener than once a week, we have known a second dose of an aperient medicine produce a most alarming degree of general debility. It is, therefore, of consequence to ascertain in all diseases, especially those which terminate unfavourably by rapidly inducing debility, if the confined state of the bowels be constitutional, or has any thing to do in producing or in favouring the disease. The effects of a dose of a gentle aperient medicine in reducing the vital powers of an individual whose habit is naturally costive, will point out the great absurdity of laying down a general rule for relieving the bowels every day, as that by Mr. Abernethy, or of administering active purgative medicines in a great variety of diseases, as that by Dr. Hamilton. It is common to be told by young women at boarding schools, between the age of twelve and sixteen years, that their bowels have been confined upwards of a week without occasioning any complaint that could be clearly attributed to it. In the records of medicine, both of the ancients and moderns, many remarkable cases of confined bowels appear. Rhodius gives a case of retention of feces for upwards of a month, and Panarolus one of three months standing, which were not attended with the slightest disturbance of the general health or inconvenience to the individual. The late Dr. Baillie published a case of costiveness of fifteen weeks standing, and Chaptal gives the case of a female who for four months had no discharge either from the bowels or kidneys, and very little by what is termed *sensible* perspiration, notwithstanding her diet consisted of broths and whey. The state of bowels in this case was attributed to "too copious flow of *insensible* perspiration." This case we would class among the marvellous ones which have of late years occurred in this country, viz. of a woman having existed some years without taking food in

any form; of another, who produced living rabbits several days in succession; and of the girl at Cork, who vomitted some hundreds of living beetles, and many other such wonderful occurrences which are to be found in the writings of those who take pleasure in collecting extraordinary facts, which prove nothing more than that medical men may be duped. Although a confined state of the bowels, even for several days, is not necessarily a disease; it, at certain periods of life, may be considered inimical to health, or favouring a disease to which the system is predisposed. In female sat the age of fourteen, it is of great consequence to keep up the vitality of the abdominal viscera, for if they be allowed to continue in a state of sluggishness, the determination of blood will not take place to the uterus, so as to produce the monthly secretion, on which the future general health of the female greatly depends, and in consequence of which suppression, a determination often takes place to the lungs, which if neglected will insiduously lay the foundation of organic disease of those vital organs. In females, at that important period of life when the uterus ceases to perform its monthly office, if the bowels are allowed to continue torpid, a determination will take place to the brain, so as to produce apoplexy, or to the lungs, so as to occasion pulmonary consumption; or a deposition will take place in the substance of the uterus from languid circulation, which will lay the foundation of the most distressing disease to which the female is liable. In males after the age of fifty, when venous plethora prevails, if the action of the bowels be not kept up, and the circulation of the blood promoted through them, the sinuses and veins of the brain will become so loaded as to occasion apoplexy.

The importance of keeping up a certain degree of vitality in the bowels or abdominal viscera at those periods of life, when mischief in the lungs or in the brain is apt to occur, from partial circulation, must appear obvious to every person capable of reflection; but this is not to be accomplished solely by purgatives; for, as we have stated above, constipation is often constitutional, and not solely dependant on a want of energy, but a certain state of body, which will not admit of more frequent evacuations; and in those cases which are dependant on a want of energy, purgative medicines are not so necessary as the stimulating stomachic, and other means which are capable of promoting the circulation through the abdominal viscera, as friction over the bowels, flannel next the skin, and such internal stimulating medicines which increase the irritability of the muscular coat of the intestinal canal, to which may be added the powerful agent, electricity or galvanism, which act immediately on the nerves of the intestines.

The late professor Cullen has noticed three species of costiveness: — the first, (obstipatio debilium) which occurs in weakly people, or persons whose digestion is bad;—the second, (obstipatio rigidorum) in persons whose fibres are preternaturally rigid and temperament melancholy;—and third, (obstipatio obstructorum) from obstruction;—and Dr. Good notices only two, which he terms constipation and obstipation. "The first, viz. *constipation*," he says, "occurs in persons of a compact and robust

habit, with hearty appetite and strong digestive powers; the intestinal absorbents occasionally evince an excess of action, and the feces, while they become hardened in consequence of such action, assume from their copiousness the figure and volume of the rectum." —The increased action of the absorbents of the intestines to which Dr. Good attributes this species of constipation, he says, arises from violent and sometimes slight exercise, (heating the blood and throwing off an excess of fluid in the form of perspiration)—too stimulating a diet, particularly of *rough* port wine, (which, says he, by *exciting* the sphincter of the rectum to an augmented action as well as the absorbents of the intestines, lays a double foundation for an accumulation of feces)—from too small a proportion of fluids compared with that of solid substances,—and, lastly, from too astringent a diet, (astringents in his opinion retarding the peristaltic action.)

The costiveness of robust people, whose digestion is perfect, we should rather attribute to mild chyle and a secretion of mild bile, than to an increased action of the absorbent vessels of the intestines; and as to violent exercise being a cause, it is, generally speaking, an excellent preventive. Indolence and a sedentary life being a common cause, it is very difficult to account for the constipating effects of those articles which produce the sensation on the organs of taste, termed astringent. We are disposed to attribute their effects to their acting more on the secerning vessels of the internal surface of the intestines, preventing a proper secretion of fecal matter, than to its stimulating effects on the absorbents; and as to the action of astringents on the sphincter muscle of the rectum being a cause of costiveness, it is ridiculous; the office of the longitudinal fibres of that muscle being to expel, and not to retain the feces. But, if astringents act by invigorating the absorbents, why does rhubarb, which is, chemically speaking, a strong astringent, act as an aperient? The fact is, that on robust subjects, whose digestion is good, a mild mucilaginous diet, as vegetable and animal jellies, have a more constipating effect than stimulating articles; and, surely, Dr. Good will not say, that they produce the effect by *stimulating* the absorbents. Although Dr. Good has discovered that astringents produce costiveness, *by stimulating the absorbent vessels*, in the subsequent sentence, he says, that the same species arises from "weakness of the peristaltic action, or sluggishness, or torpitude of the bowels from *deficiency* of stimulus." !! The doctor's medical treatment of his first species, we shall give in his own words.

"The best aperients in the present species of costiveness, are those which quicken the descent of the feces with as little increased action as possible, as diluent drinks sweetened with manna, sugar, or honey; the expressed oils of mild vegetables, as the pistachio, olive, and almond; oily farina of the cocoa nut in the common form of chocolate; figs, tamarinds, the pulp of cassia alone or in the compound of lenitive electuary; neutral salts. Dr. Arbuthnot advised the use of butter, marrow and fat; and it is probable, says Dr. Good, these may have some effect. Dr. Cullen tells us he has found four ounces

of fresh butter taken in the morning, produce a stool or two more than usual in the day. Nauseating doses of calomel and ipecacuan, or of calomel and antimonial powder, will also frequently be found of use; and the patient should habituate himself to evacuating the bowels at a certain hour of the day, and should even accustom himself to an effort to this effect, though he may not always be successful. And where this milder process fails, the more powerful purgatives must be had recourse to.

"In some instances of very great difficulty and of an anomalous kind, an effusion of cold water has been accompanied with great success after every other devise has completely failed,—and oily, resinous, and mercurial cathartics, quicksilver in its metallic state, antimonials of various kinds, and injections of every sort, have been tried in vain. Two striking examples of this occur in a letter from Dr. Spence of Guildford to Dr. Reynolds, published in the Medical Transactions of the College. The patients were from fifty to sixty years of age, the one of temperate habits—the other addicted to spirituous liquors. As a last resort, they were led into a wash-house, laid on a cold, wet, brick floor, and the water was dashed over the lower extremities and the pubes, for a quarter of an hour at a time. In addition to which, cold wet towels were applied to the abdomen of one of them in his bed; cold water was also drunk at the same time by the mouth. Both patients recovered.

The second species of costiveness, viz. *obstipation*, being the consequence of debility, or diminution of the irritability of the muscular fibres of the intestines, occurs generally in elderly subjects, or persons of infirm or delicate health. The refuse matter of the aliment being retained in the colon, until it undergoes decomposition, a considerable quantity of gas is disengaged in the lower intestines, and the contents sometimes become so acrimonious as to occasion considerable irritation and looseness. The expulsive power of the intestines is often so feeble in very elderly people, and sometimes in females during the last stage of pregnancy, in consequence of the pressure of the impregnated uterus on the rectum, that it has been found necessary to unload the rectum by mechanical means, and for this purpose the late Drs. Warren and Clarke often employed a marrow spoon.

According to the professional acceptation of the two terms, constipation and obstipation, a person is said not only to be costive, when the bowels are not regularly relieved every day, but also when the feces are too hard to receive a form from the rectum, or when they are, what is technically termed scybalous, *i. e.* hardened globular masses, from being moulded in the cells of the colon. Our popular readers must bear in mind that the daily discharge is however relative; for the constitution accustomed to a fecal evacuation every fourth day, cannot be said to labour under a disease, if a week should elapse between the periods, unless the general health be disturbed by it, or the motions too hard to pass with ease. When costiveness, either constipation or obstipation, is attended with headache, giddiness, colicky pains, distension of the bowels, flatulence, loss of

appetite, and other symptoms of indigestion, it should then be considered a disease. When we consider the great variety of articles of the materia medica which are capable of increasing the peristaltic motion of the intestines, the great mildness of some, and the drastic properties of others, we are disposed to say that the person must be little better than an idiot, who cannot contrive, by means of some of them, to obviate a degree of costiveness which in his constitution is clearly inimical to health.

The feces when healthy do not entirely consist of the refuse of the aliment taken into the stomach, one half being a peculiar secretion from the internal surface of a portion of the intestinal canal, named the colon; for on dissection we find the contents of the portion above it, viz. the small intestines, have not the fecal characters; and on examining the folds of the colon, the true fecal secretion may be discovered from the refuse of the food. Hence a substantial fecal discharge may be produced, by means of a purgative medicine, four or five times a day, from a patient who has not for many weeks taken any substantial food, and even when they have been supported by clysters of broth. In cases of constipation, or obstipation, the object of practice is not only to hurry the contents of the small intestines into the large ones, but also to promote the colonic secretion; and this secretion being entirely excrementitious, or the impurities of the blood, it is in our opinion of much greater consequence to the general health, than that of the liver (bile), to which it is now the fashion to attribute nearly all the diseases, local and general, that occur in the human body.

The colour of the feces, on which Mr. Abernethy lays great stress, as an indication of the state of the digestive organs, unquestionably depends more on the secretion of the colon than on that of the liver. When the coats of the colon are diseased, the feces are often black, and from the escape of hydrogen gas, highly offensive; and if it be stimulated by an acrid injection, or disturbed by inflammatory action in its neighbourhood, as the lumbar abscess, &c. the feces are generally morbid in colour and odour. An injection of thirty drops of the nitrico-muriatic acid, in half a pint of tepid water into the colon, produces the same griping pains in the course of the colon, and coloured motions, as follow the immersion of the legs in the nitrico-muriatic warm-baths, which the late Dr. Scott and others have attributed to the action of the absorbed acid on the liver. It is a curious fact, that hydrogen gas is disengaged in no other part of the intestinal canal than the colon, that which is found in the stomach and small intestines being the carbonic acid.

(To be continued.)

TIC DOULOUREUX.

Dr. Vandeburgh, of Liverpool, has published two interesting cases of this disease, in which he successfully prescribed the subcarbonate of iron, as directed by Mr. Hutchinson. The case possessing some points of practical value, as aggravation of the disease by the primary action of the remedy on the stomach, &c. we shall give it in detail.

Mr. W. P., about thirty years of age, consulted the doctor, on the 24th of January, 1824, as to the treatment of severe attacks of tic douloureux. He had suffered from the complaint upwards of two years; although he had tried an endless variety of medicines. The disease was seated in the right side of the face; and the paroxysms, which occurred about noon, were very acute; and, in consequence of the violence of the pain, he was frequently under the necessity of walking about his bed-room nearly throughout the night. The sight of the right eye was considerably affected during the paroxysm, and there was an almost constant discharge of mucus from the nostril of the same side. Upon repeated examination, the teeth appeared perfectly sound. His avocations often obliged him to go to and from Manchester, his sufferings were by it rendered more severe. The doctor ordered twenty ounces of blood to be abstracted, by cupping, from the back of the neck, and prescribed the following purgative:—

Take of Epsom Salt, an ounce and a half;
Infusion of Rose Leaves,
——— of Senna ditto, of each three ounces.—Mix.

A wine-glassful to be taken every third hour, until it operates.—On the 25th, although the medicine had operated, but the complaint continuing, the doctor prescribed two scruples of the subcarbonate of iron, four times a day, mixed with a preserved fruit; and desired the patient to abstain from malt and spirituous liquors.

On the 27th, the patient imagined the pain was more severe than ever, which he attributed to the medicine. He sent for the doctor in the evening; and, under the impression that the iron was operating to his future advantage, he urged him to persist in the use of the remedy. On the 29th, great amelioration had taken place: the paroxysms were less severe, and his appetite (previously much impaired) considerably improved. On the 30th, the patient slept well, and enjoyed a much improved state of health; and the disease having considerably abated, the doctor increased the dose of the subcarbonate of iron to fifty grains, four times a-day.

On the 1st of February, the patient was nearly free from pain; he had resumed his accustomed diet, and went to Manchester for three days, during which he experienced no attacks, and felt perfectly restored to health. He continued the subcarbonate of iron for some time longer, with the addition of a small quantity of rhubarb powder, to obviate costiveness. After the elapse of some time, the doctor met the patient, on his return from the Continent; when he told him that he had remained perfectly free from this truly distressing complaint.

Mr. E. S., aged twenty-nine (November 22d, 1823), stated that he had, after certain intervals, suffered the most acute pain in the left side of the face, but more especially over the orbit of the left eye, which very considerably affected his sight. The spasms attacked him suddenly, and with such severity as to compel him to relinquish his occupation. The pain was, at one time, attributed to a carious tooth; for which, anodynes, accompanied with copious bleedings, had been prescribed, and ultimately the tooth was extracted; but

no remedy succeeded in diminishing the anguish of pain. The paroxysms were generally aggravated at night. Doctor Vandeburgh prescribed the subcarbonate of iron, in the dose of half a drachm, three times a day, mixed in a conserve; and, in a few days, increased the quantity to two scruples. On the 5th of December, the complaint was entirely removed; since which time, however, he has experienced a very slight attack, but which was speedily subdued by the same remedy.

Dr. V. adds, "I beg leave to mention, that the first time I prescribed the subcarbonate of iron, was for a lady from Edinburgh, in December, 1822, who had suffered for a considerable period most severely from tic douloureux. I prescribed the medicine in doses of twenty grains three times a day, and she left Liverpool in a very improved state, promising to acquaint me with the progress of her cure; but I have not heard of her since." The doctor begs permission publicly to thank Mr. Hutchinson for the publicity he has already given his very successful mode of treating various modifications of tic douloureux, and also for his liberal promise of communicating to his brethren the results of future experience with it in this distressing affliction.

We have lately met with as distressing a case of tic douloureux as ever occurred in this or any other country, in which we have reason to believe the treatment we have adopted will prove successful; the patient's sufferings having already been considerably diminished. On our first visit we prescribed the following powder to be taken three times a day, mixed with a little honey:

Take of Subcarbonate of Iron, one scruple;
Powdered Leaves of Hemlock, three grains;
Ditto Rhubarb Root, four grains;
Ditto dried Subcarbonate of Soda, five grains.

The patient, having also suffered much pain in the kidneys and bladder, and the urine being morbid, and depositing calcareous matter, we ordered a wine-glassful of the infusion of buchu leaves to be taken with each dose.

We also directed her to apply over the seat of pain, viz. the left side of the upper lip, the left nostril, around the orbid of the left eye, and behind the left ear, by means of a camel-hair pencil, a little of the ointment of belladonna. The slightest attempt to masticate bringing on a most violent paroxysm which sometimes lasts twenty minutes, she lives entirely on liquids, as milk, broth, thin vegetable and animal jellies. The particulars of this case, and the treatment, with its results, we shall give in our next number. To us it is a very interesting one, because it enables us to expose the ignorance of a set of quacks, who have the impudence to style themselves the only regular or legitimate physicians of England.

UNMANAGEABLE LUNATICS.

In a paper by Dr. Bardsley, an eminent medical doctor of Manchester, containing some account of the Salpetriere, the following remarks occur, on the application of cold water, by pumping, as a

punishment for unmanageable lunatics. When every other attempt to enforce tranquillity and mild behaviour, on the part of some of the more mischievous and unmanageable patients, has failed, pumping is occasionally employed as a last resource, which, although somewhat harsh, will be found, if applied with due care and moderation, not altogether undeserving of trial. In the following case, as in several others, its use was attended with a favourable result. A young brunette, of robust habit of body, had been for several years subject to violent exacerbations of insanity, for a week or ten days preceding the menstrual discharge. Threats, bodily punishment, and various modes of coercion, had been employed, to deter her from unremitting attempts to commit suicide; but, on several occasions, she had nearly succeeded in her dreadful purpose. At the desire of her friends, she was admitted into the Salpetriere. As soon as this state of fury supervened, she was ordered to be conducted to the bath, and to have cold water applied to the head, in the manner above alluded to. Its effects were striking; for, though a moment before she was vehemently vociferating execrations against her friends and all present, and using violent means to extricate herself from her novel situation, when the shock came, she seemed in a moment to have lost both mental and physical force. In about ten minutes the paroxysm returned, and the affusion was again repeated, with a similar result. It was found unnecessary, the succeeding month, to resort to this practice; for, during the height of her excitement, the mere mention of the bath was sufficient to check it, and render her tranquil and composed.

THE MEMBRANOUS LINING OF THE NOSTRILS, &c.

Morbid irritation and superficial irritative ulceration of the delicate membrane lining the nostrils, the frontal sinuses, and also of the membranous covering of the soft palate, &c., are complaints of such frequent occurrence, and generally very distressing and difficult to subdue; that we have much pleasure in being able to give an interesting case of morbid irritation, which was successfully treated by Mr. Fosbroke, a scientific surgeon of Cheltenham.

Mrs. C—d, the lady of a respectable solicitor of Cheltenham, without children, of acute sensibility of mind, and of an irritable temperament, applied to me on the 10th of July, 1823. She complained of the loss of the sense of smell, with a sense of great fulness across the arch of the nose and between the eyes, extending upwards to a space circumscribed by the limits of the frontal sinuses. The integuments covering those sinuses were often slightly tumefied, and the surface red. She felt itching pain, or a crackling sensation, in the course of the nasal and supra-orbital branches of the fifth pair of nerves, with pain in the ear and in the course of the palate. She had also frequently a watery discharge from the nostrils in excessive quantity. This discharge came on suddenly, and after continuing a short time abated, becoming of a thicker consistence, and occasionally coming away in white flakes. It was so acrid as to inflame the pituitary membrane. She said that the sense of weight and heaviness across the forehead

and nose was relieved by the discharge. She compared her feelings to those of a person who has catarrh in the severest form. The disorder was immediately aggravated by vexation of mind. It generally came on in the evening. Her sleep was oppressive, as if she would never awake. Skin dry, and devoid of sensible perspiration till lately. Bowels regular. Pulse 96.

Her complaint had existed about eight or nine months in the same manner, as a violent catarrh, with a sense of burning heat, and redness and tumescence of the skin across the forehead. Having, in September and October, 1822, nursed two dogs in her lap, which afterwards died with the distemper, she had an idea that the origin of the affection was connected with this incident.* First she had sneezing, with alteration of voice. She was afterwards affected with a stiff neck, succeeded by rigidity and spasm of the cervical muscles down to the shoulder, and of one sterno-mastoid muscle, bending the head to one side.† Then came on the discharge from the nostrils. She has been under the care of an eminent Hospital Surgeon in the country for many months, blistered half a dozen times, leeched as many, and has used mercurial alteratives, &c. &c., with little benefit.

The membrane had been very irritable, being very susceptible of catarrh, since she had had the small-pox. During his attendance on this case, Mr. Fosbroke made the following observations: "The loss of the senses of smell and taste always coincide with the returns of the discharge from the nostrils, and the inflammatory state of their lining membranes. At those times when her complaint was at the worst, she could not taste even mustard. In inflammation, the natural sensibility of mucous membranes, with respect to the natural impressions, is certainly modified, and a sensibility to impressions of another kind exists. The associated loss of the sense of smell and taste, is a circumstance which cannot be well accounted for, according to our present appropriations of the sense of smell and taste to two different nerves. I must confess I often pondered on this phenomena, before Majendie published his discovery respecting these senses, and those now recorded have strongly disposed my mind to admit his views, of which they are confirmatory. Whenever the symptoms have shewn any tendency to abate, returns have invariably been provoked by exposure to cold, of which she was very susceptible. Indeed, they were aggravated by exposure to any air except that within the house; neither the pulse, nor any local or general symptoms, manifested undue determination to the brain. The heavy sleep to which she was subject, seems rather to be owing to torpor than fulness of that viscus. All the

* "I do not profess to see," says Mr. Fosbroke, "that close similitude betwixt the phenomena of this case and those of canine distemper, as portrayed by Dr. Jenner, in the Medico-chirurgical Transactions, and by Dr. Parry, in his work on Tetanus and Hydrophobia, which would sanction the belief of such an origin of Mrs. C.'s disease."

† "In affections of the frontal and sphenoid sinuses, I have observed more than once that a species of tic douloureux, in the course of the facial branches of the fifth pair, portio dura, the accessorius, and the nerves distributed to the skin and muscles of the neck, has occurred."

energies of the nervous system were much weakened. After the failure of treatment, according to established principles of practice, she despaired of cure, and felt the greatest depression of mind from the idea, that she was doomed to a most annoying and offensive disease. Indeed, she was given to understand, that this, as some other like cases, would terminate in exfoliation of the subjacent bones.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Fosbroke, wisely resolving not to have recourse to routine practice, determined to prescribe the cubebs, which he had, in cases of morbid irritation of membranes, found very beneficial. He commenced with the dose of a drachm, in conjunction with a scruple of sub-carbonate of iron, twice a day, and with a night pill of the mixed diaphoretic and aperient combinations, to keep both bowels and skin in action.

She continued the cubebs, steel and cayenne, with regularity, for several days; the discharge from the nostrils gradually diminished, and at last was wholly suspended, with perfect restoration both of smell and taste. Her general health and strength also began to improve greatly. Soon after discontinuing the powders, she caught a fresh cold, and the local affection returned, with extreme heat of the skin and forehead, with superficial inflammation (erythema) over the eyebrows*.

"During this relapse, she snuffed into the nostrils a solution of alum, which caused immediate and almost intolerable pain, and was followed by a discharge of shreds of an albuminous appearance. Subsequent use of this solution in a milder form was not painful, and seemed to do good. The powders were repeated, the discharge from the internal membrane of the nose was quickly diminished, but the senses of smell and taste continued very defective. At a suggestion which I obtained from Smith's "Curiosities of Common Water,"† I recommended the application of cloths dipped in cold water across the forehead and nose. It produced painful sensation of general chill, but relieved the sense of burning heat within the nostrils."

On the 2d of September, Mr. F. was informed that she had had no return of her local complaint, although she had imprudently exposed herself to the open air during the time of pumping water on her head. This brought on cough, with a sense of tightness and obstruction within the chest. The pulmonary symptoms having in a few days subsided, the powders were re-prescribed, and continued regularly for

* After any sudden impression of mental vexation, Mrs. C.'s forehead becomes red and tumefied.

† We are told by Van Heydon, that one Sir Toby Matthews had for twenty years been troubled with great pain in one side of his head, and a great defluxion of rheum from his nose; but he at last was cured by applying cold water to the part every day, for about a quarter of an hour: "Upon reading of which," says Mr. Smith, "I tried the experiment upon myself, who for a long time had been troubled with the running of much clear water from my nose, with great spitting of thin rheum; for I let a water-cock run upon the mould of my head every morning, by which in about six weeks' time I was eased of my trouble." P. 38. A. D. 1723.

fifteen days. She spoke with the greatest confidence of recovery, in so far as respects the primary affection, seeing that those incidental exposures, which before would have brought on the local affection in its worst form, now only excited some transient and general disorder. She appeared to be convinced, that the uninterrupted continuance of the powders for the last fifteen days had done more for her than the previous trials, which were irregular. In the last powders, the quantity of Cayenne pepper had been gradually increased, as far as the stomach could bear the stimulus*. The appetite and general health were greatly improved.

On the 16th of December, Mr. F. learned that his patient had continued free from the complaint, and had long since given up the powders. She is still, however, verys usceptible of catarrh, but it is never attended with more than an ordinary and moderate flow of mucus from the nostrils. At such time superficial inflammation (erythema) and swelling appeared about the nostrils. This winter she has been affected with irritable bladder, with occasional great pain, with a discharge of mucus. The cubebs having had no beneficial effect on this complaint, Mr. Fosbroke prescribed the fixed alkali, with the sarsaparilla and tincture of the hop, which succeeded in removing it.† In fact, up to the present time, July, 1824, attention to this lady's constitution convinces me of a peculiar natural tendency of the mucous membranes to irritative action."

In all the cases of morbid irritation of the membranous lining of the nostrils, which have occurred in our own practice, we have, on close inspection, discovered superficial ulcerations, to some of which we found it necessary to apply the nitrate of silver. The treatment we have found most beneficial, was the frequent application of the decoction of hemlock, to the internal surface of the nostrils in a tepid state, with an occasional use of a gentle aperient, two alterative sudorific pills at bed time, (composed of one grain of ipecacuan powder, three grains of blue pill, and 4 grains of extract of henbane, with a mild stomachic medicine, as thirty drops of tincture of lupulin, and thirty drops of liquor of potass in a wine-glassful of the decoction of marshmallow root three times a day.—In one case, the vapour of a strong decoction of the hop drawn through the nostrils, had a very good effect in subduing the disease.

SOCIETY *of* PHYSICIANS *of the* UNITED KINGDOM.

This society, consisting of the overflowing of the medical practice of London, have received such a castigation from their old friend

* The aromatic powders, as with bark, had certainly the effect of rendering the sub-carbonate of iron less heavy and oppressive to the stomach.

† In acute inflammation of the meatus urinarius, and of the female bladder itself, Mr. F. states he has found a piece of sponge moistened with the poppy fomentation, made hot, and introduced into the vagina, very successful during the exhibition of the fixed alkali, &c. We would recommend a strong aqueous solution of opium in preference to the poppy fomentation, which is much too weak an anodyne, to allay irritation. Mr. Fosbroke adds, probably in chronic inflammation of the bladder, cold might be applied similarly with a happy effect.

Dr. James Johnson, that they have found it necessary to deny his assertion, that they have meanly concealed their ostensible object; and manfully to assign the real motive which induced their former colleague to make such "*intemperate* and *unjust* remarks on them." So far from having *any* intention to oppose the College of Physicians, they say, "they are most anxious not to *offend* the college, and have *studiously* abstained from *seeking* association with those individuals who are supposed of being, or *who are likely to become hostile* to the college."!!! Dr. Johnson's remarks, which certainly do him credit, they say, have been provoked by the circumstance of his being debarred from admission into the "society by their third law."!! Now if the *real* object of the society were the *promotion of* medical science, for the *honour* of the profession and the *good of* mankind in general, we should have supposed that they would gladly admit any man of science who is likely to assist them, without even inquiring whether he was hostile or otherwise to the College of Physicians, or any other institution. If the College of Physicians have made bye-laws which militate against the progress of the science of medicine, it behoves every medical man, who has the benefit of his fellow creatures at heart, to oppose them; and if they have been so base as to abuse the confidence the legislature of the country has placed in them, by turning the power their charter gives them to their own interest or aggrandisement; or if they have neglected the most important duties it has imposed on them, viz. of suppressing quackery, and of promoting medical knowledge for the benefit of their country; it behoves every honest man, whether medical or otherwise, to join in representing their selfish conduct to the legislature; and with the spirit and candour of a true Englishman, to point out the injurious operation of their restrictive bye-laws in checking the progress of the healing art, by destroying emulation. Under a *constitutional* government, a charter cannot protect monopoly, legalize conspiracy, or authorise a body of men to make *unconstitutional* laws;—at least, so said the late Lord Mansfield.

The declaration of Dr. Copland, after asserting, in opposition to the College of Physicians, that he was a *member* of their body by virtue of his licence, and that he would continue to style himself such in direct opposition to the college, we confess did not a little surprise us. It certainly confirms the idea we first formed of the object of the society, that it was to induce the college, by a false shew of power and courage, to admit them to a participation of the loaves and fishes. They are, in fact, ambitious to become Fellows: and *pretty fellows* they would be. There is not a medical man of the metropolis, to whom the members of the said society are known, will say that there is one that is capable, either from scientific attainments or experience, to contribute one mite towards the promotion of the science of medicine. They have, however, evinced something like policy by excluding surgeons, apothecaries, and chemists; for certainly if such men were admitted, their presence would be a great check on the *freedom* of discussion of such *philosophical* nonsense, as that lately published by their leading member, *Physician* Shearman, to amuse or astonish the ignorant, which we took the trouble to dissect in our last number. Dr. Copland, who is the *cat paw* of the

society, has already had the *manly* courage to designate Dr. Pierpoint, of Worcester, a *pseudo-physician; i. e.* a false or counterfeit physician, because the doctor's diploma is an honorary one. Will the *genuine* physician state in what department of medicine the doctor's knowledge is inferior to his own, or to that of any member of the said "Society of Physicians of the United Kingdom"? Will the genuine physician dare to take up the gauntlet even on the department with which he is best acquainted, if Dr. P. should condescend to throw it? That Dr. Pierpoint is theoretically and practically acquainted with *all* the branches of medicine, he cannot deny; and we will venture to assert, although Dr. C. is not deficient in assurance, he will not venture to say as much of himself, or any member of the said society. As the doctor is a man of *undaunted* courage, we may be allowed to ask him if he dare to denominate Dr. Pierpoint, in his presence, a pseudo-physician? This title, applied to a person, although possessing only an honorary diploma, is a libel; and we hope that Dr. Pierpoint will not allow such a contemptible "fellow" to assail his professional character with impunity.

Although Dr. Copland styles himself a *member* of the College of Physicians of London, a society which claim a superior knowledge of medicine in consequence of their classical acquirements, he is ignorant of the derivation of the word *physician*, or even the modern meaning of it. The word physician is derived from the Greek φυσικη, which signifies natural philosophy, and the English word physician, was first taken from the French *physicien*, which signifies a person acquainted with natural philosophy; and in France it is not assumed by the medical graduates of any university,—they being denominated *medecins*,* signifying men acquainted with medicine. The title of *physicien* is not conferred by an university; and is applied on the continent only to those who are versed in natural philosophy. In this country it was first assumed by a set of impudent graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, who supposed that a knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages fully entitled them to the most honourable distinction in the philosophical world; but even in England, where the title is transferred to medicine, it signifies "a person *acquainted* with the *art* of healing;" and, therefore, as Dr. Willoch and Dr. Parr very justly observe, every apothecary, who is acquainted with diseases and remedies, is, according to the modern acceptation of the word, more entitled to it than the graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, where even the rudiments of medicine are not taught. Dryden, who was well acquainted with the medical acquirements of the dogmatical or *classical physicians* of his day, very justly observes

He "'scapes the best, who, nature to repair,
Draws *physic* from the fields in draughts of vital air."

* A French medical doctor residing at Paris, on being asked by an English gentleman if he were a physician, observed, "O no, Sir; it is the English medical doctors who have the modesty to style themselves *physicians*, although they know nothing of natural philosophy; no, sir, I am content to be a humble *medecin*, acquainted with little more than medicine."

Now according to the ancient and modern meaning of the title physician, we beg to ask Dr. Copland, or any medical professor who is acquainted with the medical acquirements of the members of the "New Society of Physicians of the United Kingdom," how many are entitled to the appellation of physician, and how many to that of *pseudo-physician?* If they are really what they represent themselves to be, capable of improving the healing art in consequence of their superior medical acquirements, they cannot convince the members of the profession and the public in general more satisfactorily of the justness of their pretensions, than by throwing the gauntlet. Let, then, their leading member, or the most learned of their body, muster courage, and like an honest man throw the gauntlet, and we will engage that it shall be taken up by a member of the class of practitioners which they have modestly termed *pseudo*-physicians. This will bring the knowledge of each party to the test, and the result will satisfy the public which is most entitled to their confidence. The mass of mankind is too enlightened to be duped by mere puffing; and the best informed are apt to doubt the qualification of those *physicians* who find it necessary to have recourse to it.

Lest Dr. Copland and his *learned* associates should not know the class of medical doctors to whom the title of pseudo-physician is properly applicable, we take the liberty to tell them what they are. They are, most enlightened Society, a set of men *verbally* acquainted with diseases and remedies, superficially acquainted with anatomy and physiology, and totally ignorant of surgery and chemistry. Such practitioners, by artifice, impudence, and a verbose exhibition of what may be termed pseudo-science, pass among the ignorant rabble as *learned physicians.* A man of common sense would not allow one of this class to prescribe for a cat, whose life he was desirous to preserve. Even the lower class of society is too much enlightened on the subject of medicine, and acquainted with the tricks and manœuvres of the fee traders, to be duped by the pomposity and impudence of men of pseudo-science; and we advise Dr. Copland and his learned colleague to look a little homeward, which, perhaps, may convince them of the impolicy of exciting public discussion of the qualifications of the different classes of practitioners. We are surprised that Dr. Uwins, who commenced practice as a surgeon-apothecary, should so far condescend or forget himself as to join such a contemptible gang. If he be really a member, we hope he will introduce to them the very excellent dissertation on medical education by the scientific Mr. Alcock, from which they may collect much very interesting matter for discussion. We are glad to find that the institution of the New Medical Society is likely to be productive of much real benefit to the country, many members of the profession of great experience and learning having come to the resolution of forming a society for the suppression of *regular* and *irregular* quackery, the promotion of medical science, and for opposing the laws of institutions which militate against the good of the public. "When bad men combine, good men should unite."—*Burke.*

TYPHUS FEVER.

Dr. Thompson, who, during his travels in South America, paid particular attention to the fevers of the country, and the effects of the Peruvian bark, in fine powder, on typhus and inflammatory fevers (Synochus and Synocha), informs us that he has often witnessed the efficacy of the remedy in every species of fever, even when attended with symptoms of inflammation of an internal organ. He says, that his experience with the powdered bark has satisfied him that it is a peculiar anodyne, and that, in all fevers, it allays morbid excitement of the brain and nervous system, on which, in his opinion, their continuance depends; and that it also secures the constitution against mischief, by increasing the cohesion of the soft parts of the body. The beneficial effects of the Peruvian bark, in cases of typhus fever, having induced the dreaming and theorising *physicians* of England to consider it a disease of debility, and to attribute the beneficial effects of the Peruvian bark to its tonic powder, have led to an improper exhibition of the remedy, by employing stimulating auxiliaries, with the idea of promoting its tonic power, but, instead of which, counteract its peculiar anti-irritative operation on the brain and nerves; and the injurious effects of this practice has brought the remedy into such disrepute, as a febrifuge, in this country, that it is very rarely prescribed.

If, says he, the Peruvian bark, in powder, be administered to the extent of twenty grains, three times a day, in a simple vehicle, as mint-water, camphorated mixture, or with Mindererus's spirit, it will be found to diminish nervous excitement, and to reduce the pulse, without diminishing the vital powers; but if an aromatic tincture, and wine, or brandy, be also employed, the excitement of the brain and nervous system will be increased, and the circulation of the blood accelerated. The state of the sanguiferous system, he says, has little to do with typhus fever. The exciting cause acts solely on the brain and nervous system; and if the general morbid irritation be allayed by the Peruvian bark, the fever will soon terminate. He condemns, in warm terms, the theory of Dr. Armstrong, and the treatment of typhus fever by abstraction of blood; and contends, that those who have recovered under it, are indebted solely to their natural stamina, which would not yield to the combined powers of the fever and the lancet. He admits that local congestion often takes place, but contends that the nerves were primarily disturbed; and that the bark, by its peculiar action on the irritability of the muscular system, and especially on the heart, will effectually prevent local congestion.

If the bark should constipate the bowels, he recommends it to be administered in the saline mixture in a state of effervescence, with four grains of extract of henbane; and if it should not then succeed in keeping the bowels in a regular state, he advises a lavement of gruel, Epsom salt, and Peruvian bark powder, to be administered daily. If on the contrary the Peruvian bark should produce more than three motions daily, he recommends it to be given in lime water. The doctor adds, that he took the powdered bark in water on the

first attack of inflammatory fever attended with slight cough and considerable irritation in the membranous lining of the wind-pipe, and that it acted "like a charm" in restoring him to health in a few days.

We perfectly agree with Dr. Thompson, that the Peruvian bark has fallen into disrepute as a remedy for typhus fever in consequence of its improper exhibition, particularly the ridiculous one of employing port wine or brandy as a vehicle for its use. We have received from a very respectable officer, who has lately visited Mexico and Peru, a quantity of a bark which in some parts of South America has superseded the Peruvian bark as a remedy for typhus, intermittent, and inflammatory fever, and which is also held in great estimation by the native practitioners as a remedy for dropsy. He says that he has taken it with wonderful good effects for intermittent fever. We find it to contain quinine and a peculiar aroma. With the generic name he is not yet acquainted. We shall give our correspondent's concise account of this bark, and the mode of employing it in South America, in his own words:

"This bark is used by many thousands of the natives of South America, and is much preferred by the medical profession of the country to the Peruvian bark. It has unquestionably been found to be more efficacious in all kinds of fever, and to sit more pleasantly on the stomach. The following are the general methods of using it.

"*For Intermittent Fever:*

Take of finely-powdered Bark, one ounce;
Epsom Salts, half an ounce.

Mix well together, and divide into eight parts; one to be taken at day-light, and another on going to bed. It is rarely required to take all the papers, four in general entirely curing the patient.

"The following formula is preferred by some of the natives:

Take of the Juice of Bitter Oranges, 4½ ounces;
Powdered Sugar, 2 drachms;
Powdered Bark, ⅞ of an ounce.

To be taken at once or twice.—*This has often cured me in two days.*

"*For Malignant Fever.*—Infuse the rind of two lemons in a quart of water, and add a pound of sugar to the strained liquor, so as to form a syrup. Two tea-spoonsful of this, mixed with one-sixteenth of an ounce of the powdered bark, and three grains of Sal de Agenjo, to be taken every hour, beginning eight or ten hours before the paroxysm is expected. This is to be repeated the second day, after which it is rarely necessary to repeat it.

"*For Dropsy.*—To three gallons of water, add three-quarters of a pound of the powdered bark, and eight pounds of molasses; then ferment for sixteen or twenty days, in a warm room. This fermented liquor may be used instead of table beer, than which it is not less disagreeable to the palate. It promotes digestion, strengthens the system, and increases the secretion of urine, and in general restores the patient to health in a month or six weeks."

Our correspondent authorizes us to add, any medical subscriber who may be disposed to give this new remedy a trial, may obtain it at the importation price, at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

POISONOUS DOSE OF LAUDANUM.

A respectable surgeon of Chepstow, (Mr. John Evans,) has lately published the following case, of an ounce of Laudanum taken by a lady into the stomach by accident, which was effectually removed by means of Mr. Jukes's stomach syringe. On the circumstance being discovered, Mr. Evans's attendance was requested. Mr. Evans being fortunately in possession of Mr. Jukes's invention, the stomach syringe, no time was lost in applying it. The accident occurred at one o'clock P. M., and in the course of half an hour Mr. E. commenced the pumping operation. No food having been taken since breakfast, the contents of the stomach were in a very favourable state for the employment of the instrument. The friends of the patient had given her, before his arrival, with the view of exciting vomiting, about two tea-spoonsful of flour of mustard, in half a pint of warm water, to which Mr. E. attributed the difficulty of swallowing, and the "burning sensation" in the stomach, of which she complained; but it did not produce the desired effect. Mr. E. having introduced the tube into the stomach, he forced through it about three pints of warm water; and by gently moving the piston of the syringe, he brought up the contents of the stomach, which emitted a strong odour of Laudanum. The mustard and some remains of breakfast were also evident. Mr. E. repeated the operation, after short intervals, until the water was perfectly tasteless, and on withdrawing the tube the patient stated that she was much relieved, the burning sensation in the stomach having entirely ceased, and the power of swallowing in a great degree returned. Mr. E. then administered a small glass of warm brandy and water, and directed a cup of strong coffee to be taken every half hour. He also prescribed for her the following draught,—

Take of Citric acid, ten grains;
Compound Tincture of Cardamom seeds, two drachms;
Camphorated Mixture, six drachms;—Mix.

She soon experienced much drowsiness, and an unpleasant pricking sensation in the skin. She was kept awake until midnight, when she was allowed to sleep till morning, when she awoke at her usual time in apparent good health. In order to obviate constipation, Mr. E. directed a lavement to be exhibited, which, having been repeated without effect, he directed three pills, composed of five grains of calomel, and eight grains of the compound extract of bitter apple. Four hours after these pills were taken, a black draught was administered, which had the desired effect.

"This is," observes Mr. Evans, "another instance of a valuable life being saved, by means of Mr. Jukes's invention." His only object in giving the case publicity, he says, "is to express his conviction of the great utility of the instrument, and of its most easy application." The case unquestionably points out the necessity of every surgeon being supplied with such an apparatus; for the life of a patient, who has swallowed a poisonous dose of laudanum, or any other poison, depends on its being speedily removed.

WHITE SWELLING, BRUISES, &c.

Mr. Janson, surgeon to a large hospital (Hotel Dieu) of Lyons, observes, in a late report of the practice of the Institution, that he has found the application of leeches and cold lotions, with cooling, alterative, and aperient medicines, and a corresponding regimen, repose, and the use of an instrument, to prevent motion of the joint, more beneficial, in cases of white swelling, than blisters and caustics, (moxa, &c.) He states, that no less than six hundred cases of white swelling fall under his care annually; and his opinion being derived from extensive experience, is deserving some notice. During the first stage of the disease, a similar treatment has been commonly adopted in the hospitals of this country for some centuries, and, when the structure of the parts have undergone no material alteration, it is generally successful; but, when mischief has taken place in the ligaments, cartilage, bone, &c. of the joint, as partial suppurations, adhesions, &c. &c. and the constitution has been impaired by pain, fever, and the means that were adopted to subdue the inflammatory action; blistering, and an alterative tonic treatment, with a mild nutritious diet, will be necessary. Mr. Janson should have noticed the stage of the disease in which he found his mode of treatment successful, and not have recommended the general adoption of it to his pupils, in all cases and stages of white swelling. Some surgeons have, in our opinion, very justly condemned the practice of confining the joint, in cases of white swelling of some time standing, *i. e.* when structural mischief has taken place; because it favours anchylosis. A little gentle motion, once or twice a day, when the patient is in an horizontal position, by keeping up a proper secretion of the synovial fluid, is, we suspect, necessary to prevent that degree of adhesion of the capsular ligament, which lays the foundation of permanent stiffness of the joint, provided it be so cautiously conducted as not to increase the inflammatory action, or irritation.

In cases of bruises of the limbs, Mr. Janson says he prefers an abstraction of blood, from a vein near the seat of mischief, to the application of leeches. Bleeding from a vein, he thinks, possesses three very great advantages over leeching;—firstly, because venous congestion is immediately removed; secondly, because the quantity of blood, and its condition, may be correctly ascertained by it; and thirdly, because the local irritation is not aggravated by it. In the lower extremities, in consequence of the superficial veins being very small, it is often difficult to obtain a sufficient quantity of blood from a punctured vein; and when this is the case, the application of leeches, or abstraction of blood from a vein of an arm, will be necessary, if the subject be of a plethoric habit, or the injured part much inflamed. The age of the patient has, in our opinion, much to do with the decision as to the mode of abstracting blood. During infancy, we should prefer the mode by leeches; at the age of puberty, perhaps that of cupping is best, on account of the arterial system being more overloaded than the venous, in which case, a greater quantity will escape from the former; and in a person after

the age of 45, we should have recourse to opening a vein, because the venous system, at that period, is more loaded than the arterial. But, in cases of bruises, the situation of the mischief, the degree of injury the part has sustained, the state of the general health, peculiarities of constitution, the age, the mode of living, &c. of the patient, should be taken into consideration, in order to determine the propriety of the mode of abstracting blood, provided the remedy be deemed necessary; and to these, the surgeons of this country pay due attention.

WEN.

M. Sanson, a French surgeon, states that he has almost uniformly found the ointment of the hydriodate of potass, rubbed over the surface of the tumour for a few minutes every day, to cure this disease. He says, he first prescribed the tincture of iodine, to be taken internally; but the irritation it occasioned in the stomach, induced him to relinquish it. Had he directed it to be exhibited in a mucilaginous vehicle, as the decoction of marshmallow root, or decoction of elm bark, it would not have produced such an effect. When the tumour was tender, or inflammatory action was evident in it, M. Sanson unloaded the vessels of the part by leeches, and applied emollient poultices (oatmeal and linseed) for a few days previously to the use of the ointment.

MEASLES.

M. Fortual, having observed that all the children who were taking sulphur under his directions, during the time the measles were epidemic in the place, escaped the contagion, has recommended it to the attention of the profession, as a preservative against measles; and from its well-known action on the skin, when taken internally, it appears to us to merit further trial, not only as a preventive, but as a mitigator of the violence of the disease, and to secure the lungs from the pernicious effects which the infection is apt to produce in them. The following is M. Fortual's receipt for its exhibition:

Take of Flowers of Sulphur, half an ounce;
Powdered Sugar, one drachm.—Mix.

He directs half a tea-spoonful of this powder to be taken in milk, two or three times a day, during the prevalence of the disease.

ASTHMA.

Professor Recamier, of Paris, has employed the Galvanic fluid, as directed by Mr. La Beaume, in a case of asthma, with complete success. The patient (a man) was sixty-six years of age. He had been complaining for a considerable time of great difficulty of breathing; and a few days before he was admitted a patient of the hospital (Hotel-Dieu of Paris), his respiration was very laborious. Professor Recamier selected the case as a proper one for the trial of Galvanism. He commenced its use during the violence of an asth-

matic paroxysm; and in a few minutes, he says, the breathing became free. The remedy was afterwards repeated every second day, for nearly a month; when, says the Professor, he ascended fifty steps of stairs with great celerity, ease, and without any sense of oppression. He was then discharged cured.

An elderly asthmatic, whose general health had given way to frequent occurrence of violent paroxysms, and an almost continued difficulty of breathing, attended with edematous swelling of the legs, considerable flatulence, loss of appetite, &c., informs us that he has been restored to comparative health by taking two tablespoonsful of the following mixture, three times a day, with the occasional use of an active aperient. He observed a diet consisting chiefly of the inside of boiled or roasted beef and mutton, and substituted very weak brandy and water for wine and malt liquor.

Take of Subcarbonate of Iron, three drachms;
Infusion of Buchu Leaves, eight ounces.

Rub the subcarbonate in a glass mortar, with a quarter of an ounce of the infusion for three hours, and then add gradually (continuing the rubbing) the remainder of the infusion. After standing six or twelve hours, pour off the clear liquor, and with it make the emulsion of myrrh, with the best Turkey myrrh. To this emulsion add,

Tincture of Colchicum Seeds, one drachm;
Compound Spirit of Ether, three drachms;
Extract of the Hedge Hyssop, twelve grains.—Mix.

Our correspondent, who has received a medical education, and has paid particular attention to chemistry, adds, that he has found iron held in solution by the carbonic acid, as in the above mixture, more efficacious in asthmatic affections and dropsy than any other preparation of it, and perfectly to agree with the stomach after the subcarbonate, the wine, the sulphate, and phosphate of iron had disordered it.

WINTER *or* CATARRHAL COUGH *and* CONSUMPTION.

We have found the lettuce lozenge (composed of the inspissated white juice of the lettuce, balsam of tolu, ipecacuan powder, gum arabic, citric acid, &c.) first introduced into practice by that able physician Professor Duncan of Edinburgh, so very efficacious in allaying irritation and inflammatory action in the membranous lining of the windpipe and bronchial ramifications, that we feel it our duty to recommend them to the attention of our readers, as a very safe and a very efficacious remedy for the species of cough which occurs during the winter season, and which, when taken before the irritation or inflammatory action is extended to the substance, is capable of preventing organic mischief, which is the foundation of pulmonary consumption. Individuals predisposed to consumption of the lungs, from hereditary taint or formation, should not only apply to such a remedy on the first attack of cough, but should also attend to the state of the bowels; for constipation is often the cause of the fulness of the vessels of the lungs, which renders them more susceptible of atmospheric changes; and if the habit be plethoric,

or approaching to that state, abstraction of blood will also be proper. When the irritation has extended to the substance of the lungs, blistering will also be proper, and the oxymel of the hedge hyssop may be substituted for the lettuce lozenge, the latter not being proportionate to this stage of the disease. The very favourable results of our experience with the chalybeate water of Brighton, with the oxymel of hedge hyssop, and such other auxiliaries as the state of the system may indicate, in cases of tubercular consumption, have so satisfied us that this disease of the lungs is curable even after suppuration has taken place, that we have resolved to form an Institution at Brighton for the cure of it.

INTUITIVE MEDICINE.

A Mr. Charles White, who styles himself an Esquire, in consequence, perhaps, of being one of his Majesty's Just-asses of the County of Surrey, has published a *fifth* edition of a small pamphlet, under the title of "Short Hints for the *prevention and cure* of gout, rheumatism, *bile!* apoplexy, fulness of the head, heartburn, and *all* unpleasant sensations proceeding from the stomach."

The work is "most respectfully inscribed" to the *Corporation* of the City of London, "in the earnest hope, that under the *benign* influence of the AUTHOR'S *prescription*, their *pastimes* and *achievements* may be *unrequited* by the horrors of indigestion, the tortures of gout, or the *termination* of apoplexy." !!!

The Squire prefaces his prescription and *friendly* advice with the information, which every subsequent line confirms, that he is not of the medical profession. Observation and reflection have convinced him, that in the present age of *medical jurisprudence*, the science is bending itself to the rules of *reason* and *common sense*; and as to regular, legitimate, or antediluvian medicine, "whatever cannot be *thoroughly* supported by *that* ordeal, may, peradventure, *delude*, but can never convince."

The fact which he exultingly admits, of his "not being brought up to medicine," he flatters himself will not lower him or *his* prescription in the estimation of men of common sense; for the late "Dr. Paley, the *greatest* of modern philosophers, stripped the *science* he undertook to explain, from the almost *impenetrable* garb of *sophistical* jargon. This great man," says he, "laid open from the *stores* and *studies* of his comprehensive genius, the dark recesses of *philosophical* mystification, and placed that within the compass of a *juvenile* mind, which had *before* been inaccessible except to *deep* and *laborious consideration!!* By the most able exposition of the *wisdom* of the Creator, continues the Squire, "the reverend doctor went on for the *benefit of mankind* in *adapting* the *human frame* to the various purposes of life; and in doing this, he incontestibly proved so *omnipotent* a work must have been divine.(!!!) The only attacks this great man received *arose* from his *incompetence* to *rival* professional study in anatomical illustration."(!!) By these remarks the learned Squire thinks he has incontrovertibly proved that a knowledge of anatomy is not an indispensable preliminary to

the formation of an opinion on the *preservation* of health; and as the name of the late Dr. Paley will be transmitted to posterity as a great *physiological* philosopher, although not a *member* of the medical profession, so will that of Charles White, Esq. as an original *therapeutical* genius, the founder of a new system of medicine, &c. &c.; "the *stores* and *studies* of whose *comprehensive* genius laid open the recesses of medical mystifications, and placed *that* within the compass of a *juvenile* mind which had been before inaccessible except to deep and laborious consideration." To confirm the inferences the Squire has drawn, he observes, a new doctrine cannot be shaken or affected because it is not stated with the *precision* and *slang* of SURGICAL *practice!!!* In promulgating his *new* theories, he declares that *every position* he has advanced, is founded upon the *simplest* reasoning, and *therefore* every one is equally competent with the most popular and erudite physician to canvass the merit of the *recommendation.*(!!) It is, says the erudite Squire, a plain exposition presented to all persons capable of forming an opinion on the most common occurrences of human life—on the simplicity of the reasoning must rest the power of conviction."(!)

Besides the *honour* of being the founder of a new system, the learned Squire is induced to give it publicity, from a *natural* desire to be the *humble* instrument of doing good!! "When the benefits," says he, "have been so *widely* spread, and so *generally* experienced, through a numerous and respectable circle of acquaintance," (the respectable proprietor, and no less respectable makers and venders of the nostrum, printers of the pamphlet, &c.) "it would," adds the conscientious and humane therapeutical philosopher, "be culpable (most culpable and *highly impolitic*) *not* to give *extensive* circulation to a means of relieving from suffering, human infirmity." The learned Squire, like his highly respectable and conscientious fraternity, displays much ingenuity to convince his readers, that he has not been actuated by any motive of lucre in giving publicity to *his prescription.* With the most *praiseworthy* view, he has been at the great expense of paper and print, of no less than five editions of his pamphlet, to communicate the happy results of his experience to "his respectable acquaintances:"—for which the *venders*, alias the compounders, of *his* prescription, have evinced so little gratitude, that they have required him to pay the full *retail* price, or one shilling and sixpence, for every box of the nostrum he has required for himself and friends.

The disinterested and most benevolent Squire has exhibited so much ingenuity and *candour* in this part of his advertisement, that we shall take the trouble to transcribe it as a guide for quacks, and for the benefit of the public.—"In these days of *redundant* literature," says the Squire, "PROFIT can with few indeed be the object of *their* labours; and it is *unnecessary* to add, for the FACT *exposes itself*, that the inducement is neither *professional* gain nor *reputation.* There is," proceeds the generous and humane Squire, "no period of life, from infancy to the grave, to which these observations are not *equally* applicable; for the *cause* of nearly *all* the complaints affecting mankind has the *same origin*, and *every* stage is in its turn

liable to attack!! Fix," says he, " upon *any disorder* of the body, barring *accidents* and epidemical complaints, (the *virulence* of which will be *materially* softened by the use of *my* prescription,) it is easily to be traced to the state of the stomach, *i. e.* in *plain English*, the *distribution* of food received into the stomach, does not proceed in a manner quite consonant to the *comfortable* enjoyment of life!! This EFFECT," says he, " exhibits itself in an *endless variety* of forms. In infancy, *it* produces eructations, and copious secretion of spittle: *soon after* this age, heartburn, dizziness, and *sick* headaches, with pimples, blotches, and every symptom of *impure* blood, designated *scorbutic!!* At the adult age, from the more unrestrained use of *animal* food, and *grosser diet*, these *symptoms* increase to torpor and *stupidity* after meals; and so it goes on, under the *usual repellants* of morning cordials, periodical salts," (not, of course, the *true chalybeate* aperient, or *true* Cheltenham salts, or the *true* Seidlitz powders,) " and *mental* enervation, till soon after thirty, the constitution has been so overcharged with the grievance, *that* gout, *first* atonic, *then* confirmed, or rheumatism, *fulness* of the head, (not emptiness), apoplexy, or paralytic affections, create an alarm no longer to be trifled with by *temporary* palliatives."

Morning cordials, a common *cause* of eruptions and blotches of the skin, the learned Squire has discovered to be repellants; and as to digestion in the stomach, it is a mere distribution of food!! After devoting four pages of his valuable work to the baneful progress of the *cause* of all diseases, except epidemics, on the constitution, in which he exhibits a degree of *originality* and *ingenuity* of argument, which cannot fail to produce the *desired effect* on the minds of his *enlightened* readers, he tells them " not to take fright, and prematurely predict, that HIS *succedaneum* is the Gothic receipt of *early* rising and temperance." For " all the miseries, and the minor nucleus in *their* brain, he has so successfully traced the cause to *its origin*, that he can venture to assert, there exists a *simple*, *sure* and *innocent* preventative."!!! The learned and disinterested Squire, like a man of real science, discloses the basis of his system, the happy discovery which suddenly brought the whole rays of his luminous mind to bear on the *origin* of the *cause* of *all* the diseases that assail human nature, except epidemics, and which, being founded on facts, must of course convince every person who is *unprejudiced*, *or not stultified* by a regular medical education, of the great absurdity of nosological arrangements of diseases; for the *cause* of all being the same, it must be irrational to arrange them under different orders, and subject them to different modes of treatment—inventions which exhibit more of the spirit of trade than of science, the pure object of which is the promotion of the *fee*-trade!!—" The cause" of the Squire's " enumerated *compendium* of human sufferings, is a *superabundance* of *acid* UPON the stomach. All impurities, or turgidity, or thickness of the blood," says he, " arise from the too great prevalence of this acid."!!! Most fortunate discovery indeed! One would really have supposed, that in " this age of *redundant literature*," there is not a person to be found so ignorant of the source or nature of this said acid in the stomach, as not to know

that it is an *effect*, and not a *cause* of disease. The acid is the consequence of the food taken into the stomach not being properly digested. The saccharine matter of vegetables, and even of meat, when the stomach does not perform its office, very rapidly advances to the acetous fermentation. This imperfect digestion is the consequence of opposite affections of the stomach, which we have noticed in our last Number.

The Squire's discovery of the *cause* of all the maladies that assail poor humanity, has enabled him to detect "the common mistake of medical practitioners, viz. the application of a remedy to the *effect*, when the *cause* ought to be attacked. To this *evil*, says the therapeutical philosopher, "is to be attributed most of our physicians' prosperity; and it is to be feared, that if the means were to be pointed out and adhered to, of avoiding, *at least*, half the diseases we suffer, it would be unpalatable to that *intelligent* and *most respectable* body of society, who flourish by *curing* the *effects of occult* causes." ! ! !

The Squire having explained his "theory *on* gout, and its affinities," perfectly to his satisfaction, and that of the compounders of his prescriptions, or, in "*plain English*," the makers and venders *of* his nostrum, proceeds, like Dr. Shearman and other *practical* writers, to prove that "his theory is supported by *practical* observation."!!! "There are, says he, many persons afflicted with the *disorder* termed *bilious* who are *never* subject to gout, but it is rare indeed to meet a gouty person who is *not* affected with *bilious sensations* of the stomach and *head*, from which *my* theory says gout proceeds. We find," says he, "persons disposed to gout *invariably* complaining of *these symptoms*, and from their prevalence especial care is called for in the selection of food and liquor; *confirmed* gouty patients are *always* knowing on the subject of dietetics; *necessity* has taught them the *wisdom* of caution, and that *different* diseases produce on their stomachs and constitutions *different* effects. All this care," proceeds the observant Squire, "is directed often *without* the knowledge of the patient (by instinct no doubt) to *one particular* object, and that is to avoid the swallowing of such articles as produce acidity *upon* the stomach."! In the choice of diet he has ascertained that "it is very difficult to fix on what will *not* produce this acid; for at times, *particularly on an approaching fit of the gout*, the stomach *itself* is so predisposed to acidity, that its contents curdle, let them be ever so judiciously selected." This is indeed a most valuable piece of information for gouty subjects. In one place the consistent Squire contends that acid in the stomach is the *cause* of gout; and in another place he asserts, that on the approach of gout, the stomach itself, *i. e.* the substance of it, is predisposed to become acid; which, if we understand "plain English," signifies that the acidity of the stomach is the consequence of approaching gout. After this precious piece of theory, the observant Squire proceeds to account for the disposition of some gouty subjects to acidity, and others to bile. "The *reason* (says he) why the same disposition to acidity exhibits *itself* in some constitutions by gout, while in others it appears in the *shape* of bile, is, that you will rarely find a gouty man who is not of rude

health, and frequently of florid complexion, *both* indicating a *superabundance of blood and strength of constitution!!* The martyrs to *bilious* complaints (says he) seldom have this *robust* appearance; their complexions are sallow, their visage thin, and their *veins* appear the very reverse of replete. Although therefore *gout* and *bile* spring from the same infirmity of the stomach, yet the subsequent consequences are *widely* different, and by reference to the *arterial* and *venous* systems we can *easily* account for the dissimilarity."!!! Hence then, according to the learned Squire's theory, that all diseases are the *effects* of superabundance of acid in or "*upon* the stomach," "*bile*," although it contains uncombined soda, is the consequence of prevailing acid!! The Squire, with all his intuitive knowledge of the cause of diseases, is not aware that bile is a natural secretion of the liver, and that it is not conveyed either into or "upon" the stomach, and that it is capable of neutralizing an acid, or, in plain English, that bile and an acid are of opposite chemical qualities. As to the "repletion of veins," it takes place in subjects after the age of 50, whether of a florid or phlegmatic habit, and has nothing to do with gout, bile, or the presence of acid in the stomach.

The learned Squire, although he confesses in his introductory dissertation, that he is unacquainted with anatomy, proceeds to account *anatomically* for the "different effects of *disposition* in different constitutions."!! "The blood (says he) is forced *from* the heart through the arteries; it returns *to* the heart by the veins. The *first* attacks of gout and *extreme* cold are experienced at the extremities of the body; *i. e.* at the *precise* spot where the blood *quits* the arteries and *enters* the veins; the arteries being *capable of expansion*, which the veins are *not* (!!) This transition is subject to impediment, both from the extra quantity of the blood in plethoric habits, and also from *turgidity* produced by the too acid ingredients from which it has been formed."!!! This ingenious explanation of the cause and effect of *turgidity* of the blood, proves at any rate the truth of the old adage, "A little learning is a dangerous thing." So ignorant is the Squire of the transmission of blood through the arterial system, and its return to the heart by the veins, that he supposes the arteries terminate in veins only at the extremities of the body!!! whereas arteries end in veins in every part of the body, even in the heart itself; and as to the effect of an acid in the stomach, producing "turgidity of blood," it is well known that the blood of people who suffer from acidity is preternaturally thin, in consequence of the stomach not performing its office. As to the idea of blood being formed from "acid ingredients of the stomach," it is a well known fact, that the chyle which is formed in the duodenum, even in people who suffer much from the prevalence of acidity in the stomach, although thin, is entirely free from acid, and the presence of an acid has never been detected in the blood of dyspeptic patients. According to the Squire's theory, the presence of an acid in the stomach is a proof of good digestion, the blood being richer and the system better nourished during its existence!!

The observant Squire having established his theory of the cause of diseases on *anatomical* facts, perfectly to his satisfaction, and

that of the venders of the nostrum, proceeds to promulgate his mode of treatment on *chemical* principles. "As Chemistry," says he, "is by no means an *universal* study, it is necessary to lay down, that the opposite of *acid* is *alkali*; that if it is required to *counteract* acid, alkali *must* be applied. The *judicious* application of *alkali* to the stomach (says he) will correct all the *bad* effects I have described; it will *prevent* the *cause* of gout from ever existing; it will so prepare the stomach for the reception of its supplies, that the blood will be generated in a pure state, preserving the *perfect equilibrium* between *acid* and *alkali*, so absolutely necessary for the due performance of its *miraculous race!!!* and by purifying its *creation*, the *existence* of *many* disorders will be *totally* avoided, and the *virulence* of many more will be considerably palliated!" Admirable reasoning indeed. Although the use of an alkali will prevent the production of an acid, it preserves a perfect equilibrium between acid and alkali, so *absolutely* necessary for the due performance of its *miraculous race!!* This may be "*plain English*," but chemically speaking, it is most ridiculous nonsense. If the alkali prevent the *production* of an acid, it is clear that it cannot be neutralized, and consequently must predominate in the contents of the stomach; how then can it maintain a perfect equilibrium between the acid and alkali?—As to the due performance of their *miraculous race*, we shall leave the learned Squire, or compounders of *his* prescription, to explain it in the next edition of his luminous production; for we confess, to our shame, that it is much too profound for our comprehensive powers, either on anatomical or chemical principles. To the learned Squire nothing is mysterious, his intuitive *knowledge of* medicine enabling him to explain all the phenomena *of diseases*, and even *the modus operandi* of remedies.

Having satisfactorily detailed the cause and treatment of the diseases to which the human race is liable, "except epidemics and accidents," he boldly proceeds to account for the beneficial effects of his nostrum. "The operation of an alkali (says he) is not on the *human* organs; it *transacts* its duty by mingling with, and correcting the food which is taken on the stomach; therefore while *other* medicines *weaken* the stomachic powers *by repetition* on the digestive organs," our little *friend* only applies its intervention to the *contents* of those organs, so that the intestines suffer no convulsion, sustain no detriment, from its *frequent* and *constant* administration!!!

In one place, the learned Squire asserts, that the "judicious application of the alkali *to* the stomach," will prevent the production of an acid; and in another he states, that its beneficial effects are produced by its action on the contents of the stomach, and that it does not act on any organ. Now, the production of an acid in the stomach, is most unquestionably the consequence of imperfect digestion, from some morbid condition of the organ; and an alkali, in such case, can only act as a palliative; a practice of which the liberal Squire accuses the medical profession, in his introductory remarks. The alkali, in such cases, only neutralizes the acid, and with it forms a neutral salt, which, instead of strengthening, unquestionably weakens the stomach. As to the assertion, that "*other*

medicines reduce the powers of the stomach," it is too ridiculous for comment; for ignorant indeed must that reader be, who can for a moment suppose that no medicine is capable of invigorating the stomach; and still more ignorant if he be not aware of the absurdity of confining the treatment of indigestion to the neutralization of an acid, which is the effect, and not the cause of disease. It is, in fact, the common practice of quacks, of attacking symptoms, instead of the cause of a malady. As to the salutary operation of an alkali on the general health, no fact in medicine is better established, than that the free use of a pure alkali reduces the vital powers; especially when it does not meet with a sufficient quantity of acid in the stomach to neutralize it. The use of an alkali, when an acid does not prevail in the stomach, has been productive of alarming debility; and consequently, the constant use of it, as a preventive of acid, must be productive of serious mischief.

After going through twenty-six pages of the Squire's heory, founded on *intuitive* knowledge of the cause, &c. of diseases (for which our medical readers will give us credit, for what may be termed *philosophical* patience), we arrive at the grand bearing of his doctrines, or what is termed by men of empirical science, "the *pith* or *marrow* of the business." After repeated allusions to *his* prescription, he states, page 27, "about five-and-twenty years ago, a receipt *fell into the hands of Messrs. Paytherus, Savory, Moore, and Co.*, the WELL-KNOWN CHEMISTS in Bond-street, for the composition of a lozenge, which (says he) THEY *well christened* THE ABSORBENT, from its power to *absorb* acidity *on* the stomach." "It would," says the scientific and conscientious Squire, "not be quite fair," (very unfair indeed, if not impolitic,) "to state the *exact* ingredients of this preparation; it will be sufficient, that it forms as *potent* and *safe* an *alkaline* combination as can be compressed into the same dimensions, equally free from the *violence* or the *inefficacy* of *other* medicines; and, from being dissolved *gradually* in the mouth *by the consumer*, the injurious concretions of magnesia are avoided, while the *ready form* and *grateful flavour* of the lozenge add an allurement to its use. This medicine," adds the scientific Squire, "is *nothing more* than a *powerful alkali*, in an *enticing* form; where the *slapping* and *troublesome* preparation for other mixtures is so usually the positive injunction to their use, this *little* FRIEND of life is *constantly* ready and *acceptable*."!!! The composition of this *little friend* to invalids (a greater, no doubt, to the proprietors) is chalk, a small proportion of common magnesia, oil of cloves, sugar, and gum-arabic.

The propriety of *christening* this composition an "*absorbent*," we will not question; and we doubt not, from our knowledge of the parties, the christening ceremony was performed with due solemnity. Mr. Moore is, no doubt, well qualified to officiate, with *imposing* effect, as the priest; Squire White could represent, not only the parent, but also the sponsor; and *chemist* Savory could emphatically *cry* Amen; and the *numerous* operators in the *elaboratory*, and assistants in the shop, could very *feelingly* join in chanting, long live Prince Humbug—success to the family of the Humbugs—*true Cheltenham*

salts made in *London*—*chalybeate* aperients *without* iron—resuscitation of the Seidlitz bubble; success to the black drop and *analytical* chemistry. And the whole might be, with great propriety, concluded by a melancholy ditty by Dr. Paris, on the premature death of that "valuable domestic remedy," the essence of senna!!

Although the learned Squire has so plausibly accounted for the beneficial operation of this "*little* friend," the absorbent lozenge, on *chemical* principles, so ignorant is he of chemistry, as to suppose the chalk (*carbonate* of lime), with common magnesia (subcarbonate of magnesia), form a powerful alkali. The "*well-known* chemists of Bond-street" should have told him, that chalk is lime neutralised by the carbonic acid. No chemist would term the common magnesia an alkali—much less a *powerful* alkali, the magnesia being nearly neutralized by carbonic acid; and even were it not so, the quantity is much too small to act beneficially in neutralizing an acid in the stomach. A combination of an aperient and antiaperient, termed astringent, is, indeed, in the present state of the therapeutic art, *scientific* policy. The absorbent lozenge, the Squire says, does not debilitate the stomach, because it acts only on the contents. This may be the case with respect to the chalk and magnesia; but surely, most learned Squire, the action of the oil of cloves is on the internal surface of the stomach. On meeting with an acid in the stomach, the chalk and common magnesia are decomposed, and considerable quantity of carbonic acid gas will be disengaged; the proportion of chalk being considerably greater than that of magnesia, the bowels will be constipated (two effects which are certainly likely *to prove very friendly* to the faculty); and if the intestinal canal *should* be irritable, or the patient subject to cholic, or obstruction, he will be lucky in escaping a serious affection of the bowels. One very *slight* objection to the composition, is the sugar and gum-arabic. The chalk and magnesia are highly extolled by the Squire, as correctors of the acid in the stomach; and the sugar and gum-arabic will supply fresh matter for keeping up the fermentative process, and, of course, produce an acid which will probably be much stronger than that which had existed previously to the use of the "*little* friend to the invalid;" and thus prove a *great* friend to the proprietor of the nostrum, by rendering a repetition of the dose, in greater quantity, necessary; and this the observant Squire recommends, until the little friend has effectually subdued the great enemy to health. The Squire, in his introductory remarks, exclaims violently against magnesia, as an absorbent; declaring, in strong terms, that it has proved highly injurious, by concreting in the intestines. After such a general condemnation of the article, we confess we did not expect to find it on analysing his nostrum. Little incorrectnesses of this kind are too common, in empirical or intuitive medicine, to be deemed an inconsistency.

The apothecary must indeed be ignorant of stomach complaints attended with an acid, who would prescribe such a composition as the absorbent lozenge, or a combination of chalk and magnesia with sugar to correct acidity, the latter of which, by supplying fresh matter for fermentation, will occasion a reproduction of an acid which

will assuredly increase the sufferings of the patient, and if continued will most probably occasion serious organic mischief in the substance of the stomach. The practitioner of experience and observation prescribes the subcarbonate of magnesia, with an article capable of checking fermentation, or of removing the cause of the acid, as infusion of gentian, cascarilla, or Peruvian bark. The effects of a gradual solution of the "*absorbent* lozenge" in the mouth and on the teeth is also most pernicious, not only occasioning caries, but hastening its progress after it has taken place. The Squire's prescription may be a "*little* friend" to himself, to dentists, the medical profession, and to undertakers; but to the teeth and stomach it is a *great* enemy. The learned Squire, in his dedication and his introduction, speaks of his little friend, as HIS OWN *prescription;* but for the purpose of introducing the names of the venders with empirical consistency, he says, the prescription *fell* into the hands of the *well-known* chemists twenty-six years ago!!! (Messrs. Savory, Moore, and Co. say thirty.) Did it fall from the Squire's attics or from the clouds? We suspect the Squire's memory is a little treacherous, because 25 years ago there was no such firm as that of Paytherus, Savory, Moore, and Co. In one part the Squire, with his customary accuracy, boldly asserts that his little friend has *invariably* succeeded; in another place he states, that the *failures* have arisen from *neglect* in taking it *regularly*, and constantly!! The corrective effect being often temporary, it must be taken *most freely* and unremittingly till its corrective powers are evident. The "little friend" being *perfectly* innocent, there is no danger (of course) in ascertaining this point by *repeated* experiments; and after the "little friend" has succeeded in curing the patient, its continued and regular use will act as the preventative of future mischief!!!

The Squire concludes his pamphlet, which, with the modesty peculiar to men of empirical science, he terms an *important* VOLUME, by assuring his readers that the extraordinary powers of his little friend in curing *all* the diseases to which the human race is subject *except* epidemics, (the violence of which it mitigates) have been established by a *most extensive* PRIVATE experience, on his recommendation to some hundreds of his acquaintance, who have *invariably* obtained relief from their sensations, and also *privilege in their diet.*!! "*Literary* men," says he, "and those of *sedentary* occupation, have been freed from oppression consequent on confinement; *poets* have risen in their flights and imagination!! *judges* have been expedited in *their decisions.* (Q. Has the Lord Chancellor given the Squire's *absorbent* prescription a trial?) "The bar has been *expedited* in their *subtleties* (a remedy certainly much wanted by the gentlemen of the long robe;) aldermen have in their *exploits* rivalled the *capacity* of their ancestors; veterans have rallied from the *digestive* destructions of protracted war; the clergy have *relaxed* their *limits* of temperance and forbearance!! even the *highest ranks* of the medical profession *itself*, have borne frequent *practical* testimony to the *virtues* of the *cure*, but invariably evaded assent to the *logic* of its application!!! *blue* devils have been vanished, health has been restored, and in every

walk of life, the long *et cæteras* of impaired digestion and ruined constitution have flown before the wand of this *talismanic absorbent.*" !!!

Lest any of his readers, after reading the Squire's "*just* encomiums on his little friend, the absorbent lozenge, should doubt the truth of them, he assures them, that he has *congregated* a most voluminous collection of affidavits and declarations, *properly* and *voluntarily* verified in *the TRUE style of empiricism*, on the oath of the respective parties, *pathetically* descriptive of the digestive and gouty torments they had endured;" but on reflection, "he had *perplexing* doubts as to the propriety of presenting them as an appendix. After considerable vacillation on this momentous point, he decided to reserve these *interesting* testimonials for future publication. The whole will *then* (says he) terminate with a *regular OFFICIAL declaration from MESSRS. SAVORY, MOORE, AND Co. regularly verified* before the Lord Mayor, that the *writer of* this *important volume*, (Charles White, *Esquire*), has not now, never had, and never will have, any profit, reward, or advantage, *direct* or *indirect*, IN the sale of the said medicine: and further, that notwithstanding the zealous and earnest recommendation of the said medicine, the writer has *most shamefully* been necessitated to pay the full price of *one shilling and sixpence a box* for *all* his consumption and distribution." !!! As the makers *retail* the smallest box of the Squire's *little* friend at 1s. 1½d. and the largest size at 2s. 3d. we may be allowed to ask the Squire, for which of the sizes "his respectable circle of friends" pay eighteenpence? But this question is perhaps unnecessary. Messrs. Savory, Moore & Co. are to swear before the Lord Mayor, that the Squire has been *most shamefully* necessitated to pay the full price of a box, notwithstanding his liberality in expending many pounds for the paper and printing of the several *heavy* editions of his "important volume," the sole object of which is to give publicity to *their* nostrum, for the benefit of his fellow-creatures afflicted with stomach complaints, &c. &c. !!! If they should make such affidavit, our readers *may* give it as much credit as we do the Squire's declaration, that the *highest ranks* of the medical profession *itself* have borne frequent *practical* testimony to the virtues of the little friend. Should the affidavit be made, we hope the names of the said "highest ranks of the medical profession" will be given, that we may give them their *proper* rank among the ignorant quacks of the day.

We have noticed the whole of the Squire's *important volume*, for four reasons; 1st, Because his theories afforded us an opportunity of commenting on many popular opinions, his *new* theories being in fact the opinions of many old women, who pretend to a superior knowledge of medicine from *practical* observation; 2dly, Because the work is really a pretty specimen of the profound erudition, ingenuity, humanity, candour, and assurance of modern empiricism; 3dly, Because the Squire has an acquaintance of many hundreds, who have become converts to his *new* doctrine; and, 4thly, Because it is a common practice with the Squire, (from disinterested motives of humanity,

no doubt), to present a copy of his " important volume" to perfect strangers, who have the appearance of being invalids. We must do the learned Squire the justice to say, that he has outdone the " *highest classes*" of empirics, in ingenuity of argument, alias the puff-oblique, and in a sublimity of language, which is peculiarly his own. If he possessed a superficial knowledge of the two dead languages, Greek and Latin, he would make a shining legitimate physician.—The Squire will no doubt avail himself of this " *short hint.*"

CORNS & INDURATED SKIN OF THE FEET.

Sirs,—Your very valuable work being instituted for the most praiseworthy purpose of diffusing useful knowledge among the mass of your fellow-creatures, and for exposing the quackery of a set of contemptible impostors, which, in consequence of being acquainted with two dead languages (valuable no doubt, because they are dead), pass with the rabble as men of science, I think it my duty to contribute my mite to promote its object, and with this view I have enclosed a receipt for corns, thickened skin of the feet, and enlargement of the joints of the toes, which I find in this country are very common complaints.

I am, Sir, your constant Reader and Admirer,

Liverpool, JAMES JONES, M. D. of New York.
Nov. 20, 1824.

Take of Powdered Squills, half an ounce;
Gum Ammoniac Powder, one ounce.

Mix together in a mortar, and with the solution of pure potass form a smooth pulp; then add half an ounce of mercurial ointment, and unite them by tritature. When properly mixed, spread it thickly on thin soft leather, and expose it to the air, till the water evaporates, when, by becoming thick, it will be in a proper state to apply to the diseased part. The corn, or thickened skin, should be previously removed by a rasp or knife, after immersion in warm water. This application will assuredly prevent a reproduction of the disease. It is also a valuable topical remedy for indurated tumours, and chronic enlargement of joints.

SMUT IN WHEAT.

Sirs,—I have once or twice referred to some remarks you formerly made on a too well known disease in wheat, called the *smut*, respecting the nature and origin of which, my opinion, as formerly published in the New Farmer's Calender, coincides entirely with yours. The general, and as we may call it, practical opinion in the country, on this subject, as in most others, is merely authoritative

and customary, independent of any aid from reasoning or research. It is taken for granted that smut is infectious, but that a certain steep of brine and lime, varied in form or use, in numberless fanciful modes, is an infallible preventive. To this notion the Scots farmers have been peculiarly bigotted; insomuch that one of them declared in print, that it was equally disgraceful for a man to have smut in his wheat as the itch in his person!—and a large English farmer lately declared to me, that since steeping has been so well known, none but seventh-rate and little farmers ever grow smutty wheat. These arguments, however, have been hitherto sieve-like, and incapable of holding the pure water of truth and fact. For, some whole districts are and have been in the immemorial habit of sowing their wheat-seed dry, and yet have not been more troubled with smut than those where the seed was generally and regularly brined and limed. In many parishes, some farmers steep, others never do; both probably on the sole authority of their predecessors, and the result is as above. Often has it been experimented and recorded, that smutted seed has produced clean corn, and clean seed and steeped seed have produced smut. The experiments of Sir John Call, quoted in the New Farmer's Calender, with their results, merit far more attention than they received.

Nevertheless, although I ridiculed steeping from the excess of bigotry and prejudice by which it was supported, I never had any objections to the practice; generally leaving my man to steep or not at his own discretion: after the example of an old friend, who farmed during half a century, sometimes steeping, at others not, and never finding any difference in the soundness or quality of his corn. It was yet formerly said, that the powerful and corroding steeps changed the colour and injured the prolific quality of the seed. However, the mere washing the seed, and skimming off the light tail corn, must have a beneficial effect.

I certainly do not presume to decide that smut is not infectious, or incapable of producing its like, notwithstanding that most powerful argument, to be drawn from the fact, that in former days, when smut was far more common than at present, though steeping was equally so, a smutty year would be immediately succeeded by one, in which smut was scarcely heard of. Some such I remember. Now, smut being general, it was impossible but great quantities of it, steeped and unsteeped, must have been sown. The prevailing error I suppose to be, the notion that smut is received solely from infection of the seed, and not from atmospheric contagion; in which I am convinced it originated, and which being intense, never fails to produce it, however pure, or however medicated the seed may have been. Thorough smut appears to be a gangrene of the substance of the kernel, by which it is ultimately converted to fœtid powder. Steeping then, however it may counteract infection in the seed, can have no prospective efficacy in the prevention of atmospheric contagion. These observations are the result of many years' incessant practical attention. I am, Sirs, &c. &c.

Somers Town, Nov. 16th, 1824. JOHN LAURENCE.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

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Third Series,

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EDITED BY

DR. RICHARD REECE,

OF LONDON,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "DICTIONARY OF POPULAR MEDICINE," "MEDICAL GUIDE," "CHEMICAL GUIDE," CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS, &c. &c. &c.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications from Dr. Braun, on the beneficial effects of chlorine in scarlet fever; from Mr. Baker, on the efficacy of the abdominal bandage in cases of debility of the bowels, with cases; from Physicus, on the ignorance of a certain class of physicians: from "A Lover of Truth," in reply to J. D., on the miracles of Prince Hohenlohe; Mrs. Cragg, on the sudatory; Dr. Edwards, on chemical analysis, and Mr. Batley's sedative liquor; Dr. Jones, on Dr. Bethell's prescription for the gout; and Sir Astley Cooper's operations, have been received.

The remarks of Dr. Bramwell are just, but the Editors hope he will see the impropriety of inserting his comments in a work which is not confined to members of the profession.

The Editors return their thanks to Mr. F. of Bristol, for his information respecting the Vicar of Berkeley's Life, alias Death Pills. They will make use of it, with the good Bishop of Gloucester's letter on the same subject, in their next number.

The Editors refer an "Old Subscriber" to the Brewery in Redcross-street, for the information he solicits. They assure him, that he will find the article there made, to be not only genuine, but well fermented.

The inquiries of Mr. B., of Bradford; Mrs. C., of Andover; and E., of Ross; the Editors will answer by post.

E. G., on referring to Mr. Harrison's prescription, will find that four pills are to be taken for a dose, once or twice a week.

The Editors advise an "Old Subscriber" to apply to Mr. Bacot, Secretary to the Court of Examiners at Apothecaries' Hall, for the information he solicits; or to consult the volume of Transactions of the Associated Surgeon-Apothecaries of the United Kingdom, lately published. The Editors are not sufficiently acquainted with the late acts to answer all the queries. Mr. Bacot will, no doubt, give him all the information he may require.

To "A constant Reader," the Editors recommend the application of the lunar caustic to the surface of the excrescences every other morning, till they disappear, and to add to the rose water a little sulphate of zinc (about 4 grains to half-a-pint).

The Editors advise A. E. I. to continue the use of the tincture of fumitory, to take the pills recommended by Dr. Bethell, (which he may obtain of Mr. Norton of Bristol) and to make use of the asarabacca snuff once a day. He should be par-

To Correspondents—continued.

ticular in keeping his feet warm. The shower bath may also be employed twice a week. His opinion of the tendency of his complaint, is without foundation.

To the request of "Sallip," the Editors will certainly attend in their next number.

W., of Leighton Buzzard, is advised to continue the pills (three) occasionally, and to take three teaspoonsful of the alcaline tincture of fumitory three times a day, in a glass of water.

Mr. Simpkins's exposure of the Medico-Chirurgical Review compact, and the artifices of its *nominal* Editor, and *Doctor* James Johnson's visit to Paris, for *Surgical assistance*, were not received in time to appear in the present number.

Mr. Goulson's letter on Dr. Edwards's opinion, has been unintentionally omitted in the present number. The Editors beg to assure him, that they hope his communications will not cease with it.

The experiments of Messrs. Prevost and Dumas are intended for an early number.

J. W., of Worcester, and R. S., of Exeter, will find the instructions they solicit in the Appendix to the Gazette of Health.

Dr. Dods's new publication on the qualifications of a Physician; Dr. James Johnson's book on Gout; "No Roman," on the College of Physicians; M. D.'s simple treatment of Burns; sulphureous fumigation; shampooing in cases of visceral obstruction; the charges against Dr. Collyer; Captain Jekyll's vapour machine; Mr. Read's apparatus for injecting the stomach, &c.; erasure of the name of Dr. Thornton from the list of Licentiates of the College of Physicians: case of Cough from elongation of the uvula, &c.; and importation of Dead Bodies from France, are arranged for the next number.

The Editors beg to assure W. C., of Chester, and R. W. of Manchester, that they are most desirous to accommodate their new Subscribers, by furnishing them with the back numbers at a reduced price. This they cannot do through the hands of Booksellers, who will, of course, expect a profit on them. Those new Subscribers who wish to obtain them at a low price, must therefore apply for them at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

The Index to the 4th, 5th, and 6th volumes will be given with the last number of the present volume, after which, each volume will be furnished with a copious Index.

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No. 99, *To Mar. 1st*, 1824.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors have not heard of the French invention to which "Y. A." alludes; and if they had, he must be aware they could not notice it in the pages of the Gazette of Health.

"An Admirer," may obtain a copy of the 67th number of this Work, after the 10th of March: and "W. S." a copy of the 5th number about the same time.

The composition of the Electuary, sent by "C. A." of B. Square, for analysis, is Camphor, Balsam of Tolu, nitrate of Potass, liquorice powder, and syrup of Poppies. It is decidedly an improper medicine for acute affections of the lungs or pulmonary consumption.

The valuable paper on Scrofula by Mr. Delisser;—a very interesting correspondence between Mr. Llewellen, and the Secretary to the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company, with the opinion of Mr. Scarlett on their power to prosecute ignorant practitioners; — Remarks on the Treadmill by "J. D."—and the receipt of "R. H. C." for an aperient artificial mineral water—were not received in time to appear in the present number, even if there had been room for them. On account of their importance, the Editors will give them a place in their next number.

The Editors advise "B. T. C." to rub the benumbed parts every night and morning with bruised mustard seed, and to take two table spoonsful of the following mixture two or three times a day:—

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*(continued.)*

Take of Volatile Tincture of Guaica Gum, and Honey, of each three drachms; mix them well together in a marble or glass mortar, and then add gradually (continuing the rubbing) half a pint of water. He may also take four grains of the blue pill every other night for a fortnight, and ten grains of the compound colocynth pill when the bowels are confined or disposed to costiveness. To his question respecting a certain Dictionary, they cannot at present give a positive answer. It is probable the Editors may not for some years have time to revise the work for a new edition.

The case of "A. B." is evidently nervous debility. The Editors advise him to take three table-spoonsful of the following mixture twice a day:

Take of Infusion of Buchu Leaves, 7 ounces;
Compound Tincture of Rhatany Root, 1 ounce—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken two or three times a day. His letter dated January 22d, was not received till after the last number was printed.

To the question of "Pater Familiæ," the Editors are at a loss to reply. They believe *genuine* treacle is only to be obtained of importers, who do not sell less than a hogshead.

The Editors having published works on some of the subjects noticed in the letter of "A Constant Reader," he must be aware that his queries to them are of a delicate nature. They recommend to his attention, Cooper's Surgical Dictionary, the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, Translation of the New London Pharmacopœia, with Notes, by a Scotch Physician; Reece's Medical Guide; Parke's Chemistry; Chemical Catechism; Henry's Elements of Chemistry: Reece's Chemical Guide; and Merriman and Denman's works on Midwifery.

To "Investigator," and "A Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons," the Editors return their thanks. They hope to be honoured with their support and approbation.

Mr. Green's valuable present of a copy of a "*Brass*-plate Engraving of a Portrait of Sir Astley Cooper, Bart. &c. &c. &c." is very acceptable, because they might have been so insultingly negligent as not to have purchased one. They will notice its prominent phreneological physiognomical, and jolter characters in their next number.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*(Continued.)*

The Editors recommend "J. S. G." to take a tea-spoonful of the following drops, three times a day, in a wine-glass of water:—

Take of Tincture of Ginger and Camomile, half an ounce;
Alcaline Liquor of iron,
Compound Spirit of Ammonia, of each two drachms.

He may also take four grains of the blue pill every other night for a fortnight, rub the feet every night with bruised mustard seed, and wear flannel or lamb's wool socks, and horse-hair soles in his shoes. —The long promised article on dress shall shortly appear.

The Editors admit the charges of "J. S." of Snowhill, to be just; but they assure him that when an article does not appear in the number of their work in which they promised to give it, he and their readers in general, may rest assured that it was omitted to make room for more valuable matter. In their next number, "J. S." will probably find an Analysis of Dr. James Johnson's Treatise on Gout; and Mr. Gray's new Pharmacologia.

The first affection noticed by an anonymous correspondent, arises from morbid excitement of the dental nerves. For the second complaint the Editors recommend him to rub over the parts, every night or morning, a little camphorated oil, with a small quantity of the citrine ointment. This composition, by curing the disease of the scalp, will prevent baldness. The cause of the third complaint is a determination of blood and nervous influence to the stomach, for the operation of digestion, and is a proof of health. The fourth complaint is a primary affection of the brain, and not of the stomach: application of cold water to the head every morning, and the occasional use of the asarabacca snuff, with an occasional brisk purgative, in general remove the cause. The composition of the herb tea he may obtain at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

The Letters of "W. S." of Bristol, "F. F." of Bridgeworth, "S. T." of Worcester, the Editors will answer by post.

The Editors will attend to the suggestions of Dr. Edwards. His reply to Dr. de Sanctis and Dr. Williams, shall appear in their next Number.

In consequence of the sudden appearance of a new London Pharmacopœia, the length of the Letters of Dr. de Sanctis, Dr. Edwards, and a "Lover of Truth," the Editors have been under the necessity of omitting several valuable articles in their present Number. They request their correspondents, in future, to study brevity, so that their communications may be short and pithy.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*(Continued.)*

"W. S." of Salop, was not correctly informed by his bookseller respecting the back Numbers. The Editors are most desirous to accommodate their old and new subscribers with back Numbers at a cheap rate. The intimation they gave in a late number, that the reprints of back Numbers may be obtained, at Ninepence each, at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, they are sorry to find, has given offence to some booksellers in the country, because at that price the Editors cannot afford to make the customary allowance. It was very far from their wish to deprive booksellers of the usual profit from the Work, and it was also very far from their wish to derive any profit from the reprints of the back Numbers. They hope, therefore, their new subscribers will in future, obtain the back Numbers of their respective booksellers. The increasing sale of the Work being more gratifying to the Editors than the profit arising from it, they would sooner present a new subscriber with the back Numbers than lose his support. Subscribers should consider the length of credit booksellers give, and the expense of carriage of their parcels by coach.

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The success attending this practice has been mostly evinced in the cure of Chronic Diseases; and, perhaps, it would not be speaking too favourably, to say these Baths are only inadmissible in the more particularly Acute Diseases, and in Organic Disease of the nobler Organs. Cutaneous and Liver Complaints, Rheumatism, Gout, obstinate Head-aches, Stiff Joints, and the Ailments arising from Indigestion, are amongst those which are most speedily relieved by this Remedy.

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No. 100, *To April 1st,* **1824.**

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Lyons' interesting case of internal inflammation; Dr. de Sanctis's reply to Dr. Edwards; Dr. Edwards's reply to Dr. Williams; Dr. Graham's Letter to an Epileptic Patient; a reply to a Lover of Truth, by J. D. have been received, and are intended for the next Number.

The Editors return their thanks to "M. D." of Bristol. They will, in future, pay more attention to the correction of the Press, so as to avoid typographical errors, of which he and other Subscribers may justly complain.

The communication of a "Certain Preventive" is not admissible in the Gazette of Health.

The Editors advise "J. H. S." to continue the use of cold water to the forehead, and to keep the feet warm by means of flannel socks. As the abdominal bandage, by compressing the viscera, may occasion a determination of blood to the head, it should be loosely worn, and slackened after a meal. The best alcali to neutralize the acid of malt liquor is the carbonate of soda. He may give the composition a trial, which the Editors recommend in the present number, under the head of Flatulence.

The Editors recommend "B. A. O." to rub over the part affected a little of the following ointment every night, and to make use of Almond Powder to wash the part the following morning, instead of soap.

Take of Citrine Ointment, three drachms;
Olive Oil, three drachms.—Mix.

She may also take a tea-spoonful of the Harrowgate Aperient Salt, in a tumbler of water every or every other morning.

"A. B. C." of Manchester, and "W. C." of Ross, will find in the present Number, the information they solicit under the head of Flatulence.

The Editors advise "G. R." of Wolverhampton, to add to the citrine ointment, half a drachm of tar, forty drops of extract of lead, and sixty drops of laudanum. He may continue the blue pill, and take the aperient salt occasionally. He may also adopt wash leather instead of flannel.

The Editors refer "W. C." and "S. R." to the Practical Treatise on the Efficacy of the Buchu Leaves, in irritative diseases of the prostate gland, bladder, &c.; and "S. R." of Bath, and "W. P." of Exeter, to the Appendix to the Gazette of Health.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*(Continued.)*

The Case of "J. W." is indigestion from increased excitement of stomach. The Editors recommend him to take two tea-spoonsful of the alcaline tincture of fumitory in a glass of water three times a day, and a tea-spoonful or two of the Epsom Salt dissolved in a quarter of a pint of water, every or every second morning, so as to obviate costiveness. He should avoid spirituous and vinous liquors.

"A. S. R." may give the alcaline Tincture of Colchicum seeds a trial. In one case of epilepsy, the Editors have found it very beneficial, but in others it has proved injurious, by inducing debility. He may take it in the decoction of Peruvian Bark or Rhatany Root.

The requests of Mr. Fenton, Mr. Jollip, and Mr. Knight, shall meet with early attention.

To Mr. Jones's hints the Editors will pay attention.

That the Editors may fulfil the numerous promises they have repeatedly made, and dispose of the mass of information with which their Correspondents have supplied them, they intend to make an addition of one sheet to their next number. In it, they will particularly notice the impudent Advertisements of the Apothecaries' Company, their unconstitutional connexion with the College of Physicians, and the extraordinary Regulations of the Court of Examiners;—the long promised Analysis of Dr. James Johnson's Treatise on Gout; his trip to the continent for surgical advice, after having been under the care of Sir Astley Cooper, and further exposure of jargonic medicine, and the Society of Physicians, Surgeons, &c. which act *under* the said Dr. James Johnson, in conducting a quarterly work of medical jargonism; the Lives of Dr. Harvey, Dr. Rumsey, and Dr. Woodyatt; the Transactions of a Society of Apothecaries, and of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh;—Sir Arthur Clarke's Manual for the Preservation of Health;—Dr. Gairdener's Treatise on Iodine;—Description of the Chiro-Medical Class of Physicians;—an interesting correspondence between Mr. Llewellen of Leatherhead, and the Court of Examiners of Apothecaries, with Mr. Scarlett's Opinion of their power;—Remarks on the Tread-Mill;—a Case of Internal Inflammation, by Mr. Lyons;—Dr. Dods's Work on the State of Medicine;—Remarks on the Rot in Sheep, by Mr. Towne, and on Tubercles in Horses, by Mr. Seville;—Description of an Instrument for introducing suppositories into the Rectum, &c.;—of Captain Jekyll's Portable Vapour Bath;—Experiments on Rabbits with the Galvanic Fluid;—Remarks on the peculiar local operation of Stimulants and Anodyne Medicines, and on Dr. Paris's Rules for prescribing Medicines;—the Anatomy of Tubercles, and the effects of native ferruginous water in pulmonary consumption;—Erasure of the name of Dr. Thornton from the List of Licentiates of the College of Physicians, and of Sir Charles Aldis from that of the Fellows of the College of Surgeons,—the phrenological characters of Sir Astley Cooper's published picture, with an examination of his claims to science;—the Controversy between Mr. Earle and Sir Astley Cooper, &c. &c.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

If "W. B." of Portsmouth will favour the Editors with his real name, they will give his biographical sketch of the medical baronet in their next number.

The Editors advise "S. W." to take twenty drops of the saturated tincture of iodine, twice a day, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of marshmallow root, and to rub the size of a horse bean of the following ointment over the tumours every night:—

Take of Prepared Calomel, one drachm;

The Best German Iodine, 3 grains.—After being well rubbed together in a glass mortar, add an ounce of fresh Hog's Lard. He should live abstemiously, and avoid much exercise.

The case of "W. C." of Birmingham, is clearly tubercular consumption.—The Editors advise him to take three table-spoonsful of the following mixture, three times a day, and to keep a blister *open* over the breast-bone, by means of the savine ointment:—

Take of Gum Ammoniac Emulsion, 3 ounces;
Almond Emulsion, made with Rose Water, 4 ounces;
Tartarized Iron, 10 grains;
Oxymel of the Hedge Hyssop, 1 ounce.—Mix.

He should wear flannel next the skin, and live abstemiously.

"W. F. L." of Leeds, is advised to take two tea-spoonsful of the wine of the meadow saffron seeds every second morning, for a week, in a little camomile tea.—He may also take a wine-glassful of camomile tea, twice a day. His suspicions, as to the existence of a tape worm, are probably correct.

The Editors recommend "J. H. S." to take two tea-spoonsful of the following drops, twice a day, in a wine-glass of water:—

Take of Compound Tincture of Rhatany Root, or Huxham's
Tincture of Bark, 2 ounces;
Tincture of Lupulin,
Compound Spirit of Ammonia, of each, half an ounce.—Mix.—We advise him to make use of the shower bath, twice a week; or to apply cold water for five minutes to his forehead, every morning, by means of a napkin.—He should wear flannel socks; a shirt and drawers of flannel are better than of wash leather, for the purpose of travelling during the night. The effect of the silk handkerchief on the nostrils is desirable, and cannot be prevented. He should avoid malt liquor, and British wines of all sorts. Meat he may take, underdone, once a day.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*(continued.)*

The Editors advise "T. K." of Kidderminster, and "*Valete*," to read the articles on their complaints in their Appendix to the Gazette of Health, and the addition to the Appendix. They advise the former to discontinue the use of steel medicines, and the latter the steel and cantharides, as they will assuredly aggravate their complaints. They may take two tea-spoonsful of the tincture of buchu leaves every night at bed time, and about two hours before dinner, in a wine-glass of cold water. The shower bath, or cold water to the head, every morning, is proper. They should avoid stimulating articles of diet, and vinous or spirituous liquors. If they divert their minds from their complaints, they will soon enjoy good health.

The Editors inform "A Pulpit Orator," that they have known a tea-spoonful of the oxymel of squills, taken twice a day in a wine-glassful of rosemary tea, to remove the cause of his complaint. He may dissolve in his mouth gradually, and swallow it, one or two squill lozenges, when he finds a disposition to the recurrence of the dryness of the mouth, &c. It is of consequence to keep up the action of the skin of the neck by constantly keeping it covered with fine flannel.

The urethral affection of "E. O." is, no doubt, occasionally aggravated by nervous excitement. The Editors advise him to read their treatise on the Diosma Crenata, or Buchu leaves, and to follow their advice under the head of spasmodic and organic stricture. As a stomachic, he may take two tea-spoonsful of the following drops, twice a day, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of marshmallow root.

Take of Alcaline Tincture of Fumitory,
Alcaline Liquor of Iron, of each, one ounce.—Mix.

As the saline waters of Cheltenham and Leamington have in general proved injurious in irritative affections of the bladder, urethra, and rectum, they cannot advise him to take them. They will attend to his suggestions respecting an index of remedies. The question respecting a new edition of a dictionary they cannot answer: they have not had time to revise it for the press, and add all the modern discoveries, &c., and probably never will. They had a copy interleaved for a new edition about two years ago, and have not yet finished two pages.

The spirited proposal of "J. D." to commemorate the "birth-day of the Gazette of Health," and pass a vote of censure on the emperor of theatrico-jargonic medicine, for his "dastardly conduct, impudent quackery, and mendacity," has been received. The Editors will be happy to have the proposed interview with him at 170, Piccadilly.

Of the remarks of "R. P." on the extraordinary resolution of "the governors by assumption of the Royal College of Surgeons," respecting lecturers on anatomy, who do not hold the appointment of surgeon to a London hospital, the Editors will avail themselves in the next number.

The disappointment "A. B." experienced on reading Mr. Phillip's Translation of the Pharmacopœia, did not exceed that of the Editors. They will notice it, and the reconciliation between him and Dr. Paris, in their next number.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*(Continued.)*

The Editors have to apologize to their Readers, for not having fulfilled the promise they made in their last number, of enlarging their present number, for the purpose of disposing of their accumulated stock of information. The fact is, all the articles were prepared for the press before the 20th of the month; but the Editors, being under the necessity of seeing patients at considerable distances from London in different directions, have not had it in their power to correct the press. In order to dispose of their arrears, so as to enable them to continue their analysis, &c. of nostrums, until they have gone through the long catalogue of "*infallible specifics*," they will go to press on the 10th of May, and make an addition of a sheet or two to the number.

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